

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 15th November 1949.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 2-30 p.m., Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMA-KRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Judgments of the Madras High Court on certain Habeas Corpus applications.

* 11 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have obtained and perused the judgments of the Madras High Court in the *Habeas Corpus* applications dealt with by that Court;

(b) whether it is a fact that in many cases a person is often arrested first and a complete and proper enquiry is set on foot only after the arrest;

(c) what steps, if any, have been taken by Government to ensure that a person is not detained even for a single day unreasonably and without justification;

(d) what steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that the representations made by the detenus are placed before the Advisory Council without undue delay;

(e) whether it is a fact that delay in the submission of remarks on the representations of detenus by the District Magistrates has resulted in unnecessary delay in the consideration of cases by the Advisory Council; and

(f) what steps have been taken by the Government to avoid unnecessary delay at all stages to assist the speedy disposal of representations?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON (on behalf of Hon. the Premier):—“(a) Yes.

“(b) No.

“(c) Instructions have been issued to the detaining authorities laying down clearly the circumstances under which detention should be ordered. The detaining authorities are expected to issue warrants of detention only after fully satisfying themselves as required under section 2 (1) of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Act. Detentions ordered by the detaining authorities are immediately reported to Government together with the grounds of detention and such reports and grounds are carefully scrutinized by Government to see if the action taken is justified. Such

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scrutiny has revealed that generally detentions have been ordered for sufficient reasons and with sufficient justification.

“(d) As soon as the representations of the detenus are received by the Government the detaining authority is consulted on the statements made by the detenus which often contain denials of the grounds communicated to them. These reports are generally obtained from the district authorities within a week or ten days. Together with these remarks the cases of the detenus are placed before the Advisory Council constituted under the Act.

“(e) A few cases have arisen in the past but at present no unnecessary delay is caused in obtaining the remarks of the district authorities on the representations of the detenus.

“(f) All possible precautions have been taken by the Government to avoid delay at each and every stage. Instructions in this regard have been issued to all detaining authorities and a careful check is also maintained on the progress of disposal of cases in the Secretariat.”

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—“ May I know whether any additional Advisory Councils have been constituted by the Government to dispose of the cases of these detenus more expeditiously than at present? ”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ Yes, Sir. We have constituted an additional Advisory Council to dispose of cases quickly.”

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—“ Will the Government please consider the advisability of having more Advisory Councils, at least 6—one for Rayalaseema where I believe there are not many detenus, and in the case of other districts at least one for two districts? ”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ No, Sir. There is no necessity for more Councils now. There were delays of course before the constitution of the additional Council I have just mentioned. But now the cases are dealt with with utmost expedition.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ May I know, Sir, if the answer to clause (b) of my question is in the negative, why there should be any delay in intimating the grounds of detention to the person concerned? ”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ Generally, there were no delays, Sir. Delays have crept in only in a few cases, where they were unavoidable.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ If there were no appreciable delays, Sir, may I know why the High Court had to draw the attention of the Government to delays in the communication of the grounds of detention to the detenus? ”

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THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I have already said, Sir, that there were delays only in certain cases which were perhaps due to the pre-occupation of the district officials on more urgent and more important work. For instance, the District Magistrates in the border districts were not able to communicate the grounds of detention to the persons concerned in time during the Hyderabad trouble. Now there are no such delays and strict instructions have been issued to the District Magistrates to see that delays are avoided."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the orders mentioning the ground of detention are communicated to the persons concerned only if the Government authorize the District Magistrates to do so or the Magistrates can do so direct? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" No, Sir. The orders are communicated by the Government to the detenu concerned."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I know, Sir, whether in cases in which the High Court has said there is illegality in the detention, Government have taken any action against any officers concerned with these illegal acts? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" There has been no fault on the part of the officers concerned. All that the High Court pointed out was that in certain cases in which the District Magistrates had issued orders of detention they were wrong. Evidently, the District Magistrates concerned did not realize this mistake at the time of issue of the orders. Even the Advisory Council, which comprises among others High Court Judges and the Advocate-General did not find anything wrong with such orders. Yet, the High Court pointed out certain mistakes in the orders issued by the District Magistrates. These have been codified and communicated to all the Magistrates and they have been instructed to follow the High Court's instructions strictly."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Advisory Councils have at any time brought to the notice of the Government the inordinate delay in sending their remarks on the representations made by the detenus? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The Advisory Council's views are confidential and in no case it has mentioned anything about the inordinate delay."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I know, Sir, if the Government have always followed the advice of the Advisory Council or rejected them? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The Council is given the highest respect that is due to them."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I want to know, Sir, whether the Government have rejected their advice in any case? "

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THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ The advice of the Advisory Council is confidential, Sir, and therefore the relationship between the Government and the Advisory Council cannot be disclosed. Some of the members who constitute the Council are High Court Judges and naturally we give them the highest respect.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ In view of the fact that Government have issued instructions to District Magistrates to avoid these unnecessary delays, may I know, Sir, if any provision is made in the Statute to enable the detenues to seek redress if there is unnecessary delay on the part of the District Magistrates? ”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ A Bill on this matter is coming before this House tomorrow or the day after, Sir, when the question can be discussed.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Why tomorrow? To-day itself we can discuss it, if there is time.”

Ante-natal clinics run by local authorities.

* 12 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether provision has been made in the ante-natal clinics run by the local authorities to supply expectant mothers attending them with maternity packs and dressings for the lying-in period and, if not, whether the Government propose to issue necessary instructions regarding the same?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ The answer to the first part is in the negative.

“ Such provision being desirable, the question has already been taken up for examination with reference to the cost involved and the possibility of even trained expectant mothers not using the materials properly.”

Alleged dispossession of land assigned to ex-servicemen.

* 13 Q.—MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether cases of dispossessing ex-servicemen of Grow More Food land in favour of political sufferers have arisen and, if so, what redress has been given to the ex-servicemen?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ On certain complaints received by Government that lands leased to ex-servicemen under the Grow More Food Scheme were being taken away from them and assigned to political sufferers, the Government issued specific instructions to Collectors that ex-servicemen who were in occupation of lands under the Grow More Food Scheme or otherwise should under no circumstances be dispossessed of their lands if they are landless poor persons. The Collectors have also been

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informed that lands in the occupation of poor ex-servicemen should be assigned to them in accordance with the general instructions recently issued for assignment of lands. The complaints that were received were transferred to the concerned Collectors for necessary action in accordance with instructions referred to above."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government would take away the land from the ex-servicemen if there had been an unauthorized encroachment by them upon the land and re-assign it to political sufferers? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" A Government Order has been issued in the matter, Sir, under which the Collectors have been instructed to observe certain conditions in assigning lands. I am sure the Collectors will use their discretion in each case and do the needful."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, may I know, in the case of ex-servicemen, if they are not landless and if they have been cultivating the lands under the Grow More Food Scheme, the orders of Government are that they should be taken back? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, this question has not arisen in the way the hon. Member has raised it. I have said that if he is a man who has already got lands and is rich enough, he has no special priority over others."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether that consideration weighs in the case of political sufferers also? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I do not think, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Am I to take it, Sir, that so far as ex-servicemen and others are concerned the fact that they are already owners of land is taken into account while assigning lands and in the case of political sufferers, even if they own lands already, they will still be assigned more lands by Government? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I can only draw the attention of the hon. Member to G.O. No. 1523, dated 11th June 1949 which is elaborate and clear."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that even when persons have spent large sums of money in reclaiming lands in their occupation, they have been deprived of their lands and the lands made over to others? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It is quite natural, Sir, that if anyone encroaches upon a land belonging to somebody else he is not allowed to do so. Similarly if

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there is any encroachment on Government land, the Government have a right to evict the person concerned and give it to the person entitled to it under the Government Order."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" May I know, Sir, if there are no cases in which the persons who occupy the lands under Government Orders and who have spent large sums of money for cultivating them, have been deprived of such lands and the lands given to political sufferers? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" If my hon. friend is referring to any leases, after the termination of the lease, the Government must have probably taken back the lands and assigned them to others."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether at any time these ex-servicemen were promised any land which was taken away later on and will Government assure us that they would not be ousted from the land so long as they continue to remain on it? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Such a hypothetical question cannot be answered, Sir. If my hon. friend can point out to the Government the hardship caused to any ex-servicemen by the Government Order, Government will certainly examine them and give as much consideration as possible. It is our intention, Sir, that ex-servicemen should be helped like any other set of people in the matter of assignment of land."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" Does it not stand to natural justice, Sir, that when a person has been given a certain piece of land and allowed to spend large sums of money on that land, he should not be deprived of that land without paying him any compensation? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It looks quite feasible in the way the hon. Member has put that question. But he does not see clearly that if the lease is for a particular period, even if the lessee has spent large sums of money over the land, he will be directed to leave the land at the expiry of the lease."

2-45 P.M. SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will the Hon. Minister assure, Sir, that so long as they cultivate the land they would not be evicted? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, I should like to have notice of this."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is it not a fact that all the rules of assignment are observed in cases of assignment of land to political sufferers? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Yes, Sir. There is already a Government Order which clearly explains the procedure to be adopted by the Collectors. The Collectors are following these instructions."

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Statutory rules for service in the Highways department.

* 14 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to Question No. 242 on 9th March 1949—

(a) whether statutory rules governing the conditions of service in the Highways department have been framed;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what the rules are;

(c) what the modifications proposed are in respect of communal representation;

(d) whether the promotion of Assistant Engineers as Divisional Engineers on a temporary basis has resulted in anomalies overlooking the claims of the senior officers; and

(e) whether, in framing service rules for the Highways Department, the disparity between the basic salaries of Local Fund Assistant Engineers and Assistant Engineers (Highways) on the one hand and District Board Engineers and Divisional Engineers on the other has been taken into account?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“(a) Statutory rules governing the conditions of service in the Highways Department have not yet been issued pending a final decision on certain points.

“(b) Does not arise.

“(c) No decision has been arrived at in the matter.

“(d) Pending issue of statutory rules for the Highways Department, appointments to the posts of Divisional Engineers are made on the analogy of the rules relating to the old Madras District Board Engineering Service. Half the number of vacancies in the category of Divisional Engineer's are filled by the appointment of persons selected on grounds of merit, ability and seniority and the other half by persons selected under the communal rule. The promotions already made have not resulted in anomalies overlooking the claims of senior officers if they were otherwise suitable.

“(e) The scales of pay admissible to Local Fund Assistant Engineers and District Board Engineers II Grade were less than the scales admissible to Assistant Engineers and Divisional Engineers in the Highways Department. In fixing the pay of Local Fund Assistant Engineers and District Board Engineers as Assistant Engineer (Highways) and Divisional Engineers (Highways) respectively, the pay drawn by them in the District Board service was duly taken into account.”

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—“I find, Sir, that even on the ground of seniority some people have been superceded. May I know the reasons for it?”

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ We look into confidential records and reports of superior officers and take all that into account and promote officers.”

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—“ Are the grounds communicated to the persons concerned before they are superceded and is any explanation taken from them as to why they should not be superceded? ”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ I do not think grounds are communicated, Sir.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ May I know, Sir, when the Hon. Minister expects to formulate these rules. The Highways Department has been in existence for over nearly three years. May I know, Sir, when these rules regulating seniority, etc., would be framed? ”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ I do expect that we will be able to frame the rules very soon.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ May I know, Sir, what was the necessity to adopt a different system of recruitment and promotion from Assistant Engineers to Divisional Engineers; half on communal representation and half on other basis when the rules are still in the course of formulation? ”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ Because rules have not been framed we are proceeding on the old basis of recruitment to District Board Engineering Service.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ May I know, Sir, whether the words very soon ' would imply days, months or years? ” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ It may mean anything, Sir.” (Laughter.)

Dearness allowance to Government pensioners.

* 15 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government pensioners who have retired from all grades of Government service are in receipt of dearness allowance and if so, what the rates of such allowance are;

(b) whether it is a fact that in 1948 a cut of 50 per cent was effected in the dearness allowance granted to pensioners;

(c) whether pension has always been considered by Government as deferred pay;

(d) whether the Government have received representations pointing out the inequity involved in paying lower scales of dearness allowance to pensioners; and

(e) whether the Government have at any time reviewed this matter and if so, what their decision is?

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“(a) Not all Government Pensioners are in receipt of dearness allowance. Only pensioners drawing pensions of less than Rs. 106 per mensem are in receipt of dearness allowance as shown below :—

	RS.
Pensions not exceeding Rs. 20	4 per mensem.
Pensions exceeding Rs. 20 but not exceeding Rs. 60	5 per mensem.
Pensions exceeding Rs. 60 but not exceeding Rs. 100.	6 per mensem.

Persons in receipt of pensions exceeding Rs. 100 but not exceeding Rs. 106 per mensem are allowed such increase as will bring the total pension to Rs. 106 per mensem.

“(b) The rates were reduced from 1st January 1948. With effect from 1st January 1948 the rates mentioned in clause (a) are in force. Prior to that date and during 1947 only, the rates of dearness allowance were as follows :—

Pensions of less than Rs. 40 per mensem	Rs. 8 per mensem.
Pensions of Rs. 40 and above but not exceeding Rs. 100 per mensem	Rs. 9 per mensem.

Persons in receipt of pensions exceeding Rs. 100 per mensem but not exceeding Rs. 109 per mensem were allowed such increase as will bring the total pension to Rs. 109 per mensem. Prior to 1st January 1947 also the rates mentioned in clause (a) were in force.

“(c) No.

“(d) Yes.

“(e) Recently the Government reviewed the question but decided against enhancing the rates of dearness allowance.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“May I know, Sir, why in respect of officers still in service dearness allowance has been granted to all but in the case of pensioners alone, Sir, a limit of Rs. 106 has been fixed?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“The answer was clearly stated against 2 (c), viz., whether pension has always been considered by Government as deferred pay. The Government do not consider it so.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“Is it a recent decision of the Government, Sir?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“It is a decision for all time to come.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“I am of opinion that the pensioners deserve more dearness allowance on account of the rise in cost of living allowance.”

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I do not know. I cannot pay anything more."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" As the Dearness Allowance is intended to relieve the high cost of living, Sir, will the amount of Dearness Allowance given, in any way meet the high cost of living? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Meet partly, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" While the cost of living is rising so high, do the Government think it fit to cut down the dearness allowance of pensioners by 50 per cent? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The reduction is not 50 per cent, nor is it on any percentage basis. Rs. 8 and 9 has dropped down to Rs. 4, 5 and 6. The reduction is not 50 per cent."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" The cut was proposed in dearness allowance to pensioners at a time when the cost of living index was rising. I do not understand what was the necessity, Sir, for the pensioners alone to be treated in this manner while in respect of the persons working, however, it was proposed to increase the dearness allowance."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" We find that in all Provinces this was adopted. There is no reason why Madras alone should give an enhanced rate of dearness allowance."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is the Hon. Minister prepared to follow other provinces in all other matters, especially in regard to pay and allowances? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" No Sir, only when it suits us."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of guaranteeing reasonable amount of dearness allowance to these poor pensioners, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Pensioners are poor indeed. But what about the position of the province after total prohibition? "

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Were the hon. Members primarily responsible for this total prohibition policy being supported and whether this is the cause for the Government being in this unhappy position that they cannot give slightly enhanced dearness allowance? "

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" We are not responsible for the policy."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The question is put to the Hon. Minister."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Do Government think now of revising the policy of prohibition, Sir? "

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I appeal to the Hon. Finance Minister to restore the cut that was effected in 1948 in respect of pensioners."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Much as I sympathize with the poor pensioners drawing less than Rs. 106, the inability of the Government must be taken into consideration. The restoration of the cut would certainly amount to more than ten lakhs of rupees."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I would like the Hon. Minister to express his sympathy in rupees, annas and pies and not in words."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I would like, the Leader of the Opposition expresses sympathy to the Government on behalf of the people and the poor men in the street about whom he talks every time and persuade them to pay more taxes. Certainly then, I shall consider the proposal."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is not the poor men paying all the taxes the Hon. the Finance Minister is imposing without grumbling; sales tax at every stage increased bus fares and all other taxes? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" No, Sir. I do not think that all the taxes that we are imposing are falling on the poor men."

Number of co-operative societies for house construction and the houses constructed by them.

* 16 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) the number of co-operative societies for the construction of houses that have started work;

(b) the number of houses that are under construction;

(c) the number that have been completed by the end of May; and

(d) whether any scheme for rural areas has been introduced?

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" (a) Since July 1947, when the Government initiated a drive for organizing new housing schemes, seven co-operative house building societies, organized under the new scheme, have started construction of houses.

" (b) At the end of May 1949, 566 houses were under construction by the new as well as the old building societies.

" (c) The number of houses constructed by the new societies by the end of May 1949 is 94. Apart from this 461 houses were constructed by the old building societies during the period from 1st July 1946 to 31st May 1949.

" (d) No scheme for rural areas has so far been introduced."

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SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Have the Government any scheme for rural areas? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" It is under consideration."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" For how long, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" For a few months, Sir."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Was there not a proposal of getting prefabricated houses and supplying them to each district centre so that they may have prefabricated houses at least in urban areas? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" Some time ago the Government of India asked us to take a few prefabricated houses but now they are not in a position to supply them. If they supply we shall take them."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" During its term of office this Government has not been able to construct one hut or help in the construction of even a single hut."

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" This is done on a co-operative basis; with the co-operation of the Municipal Councils and other bodies."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I am asking whether the Government has done anything."

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" The co-operative societies are concerned with this scheme, Sir."

Separation of juvenile probation from adult probation.

* 17 Q.—MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is a proposal to separate **juvenile** probation from **adult** probation; and

(b) whether there will be any increase in the number of women Probation Officers?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" (a) The consideration of the proposal made by the Madras Children Aid Society to separate Juvenile probation from Adult probation has been deferred pending a decision on the question of undertaking legislation on the lines of the new Children Bill prepared by Lieut.-Col. Ford Thomson.

" (b) There is no proposal to increase the number of Woman Probation Officers."

MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that since the Juvenile and Adult probation works together, the work is not so successful."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" This Government is aware that the work is suffering as it has to be done

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by the same agency. There is necessity to increase the number of probation officers in the city. But the present conditions won't permit the increase."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is it the question of cost or is it the question of necessity that was put first? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" There are many unfavourable conditions. It had not been practicable so far."

MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that the women probation officers' conveyance allowance is very inadequate? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" My recollection is that there has been recent increase in it. But I will look into the matter."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Are the Government aware of the desire ^{3 p.m.} both of men as well as women that the number of women probation officers should be increased? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I do not see any reason why men also should not desire an increase in the number of women probation officers."

Availing of permission for the starting of industries.

* 18 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : " Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether all or any of the concerns or persons authorized to start various industries in respect of which permission for capital issue and import of capital goods has been given, have availed of such permission;

(b) whether any time-limit was fixed before which this permission was to be availed of;

(c) whether the Government have considered the desirability of transferring these permits to others who are eager and competent to start these industries; and

(d) whether the Government propose to invite fresh applications before allotment is made?

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSWAMI REDDI :—" (a) Yes."

" (b) Yes."

" (c) Yes. where necessary."

" (d) whenever existing licences are cancelled new applicants are selected to start such concerns."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know how the selection is made? "

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSWAMI REDDI :—" The guiding consideration is the business and financial standing of the promoters and their capacity to start new industries."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Are the Government aware that persons who were granted permits satisfied all these considerations and if so, why are they still not able to bring the industries into existence? ”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSWAMI REDDI :—“ When the permits were given all these things were taken into consideration. If they are not able to start the concerns, their licenses are cancelled and new applicants are selected.”

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—“ May I know whether those who obtained licenses for spindles before March 1947 have got them and established the mills now? ”

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSWAMI REDDI :—“ A separate question may be put, Sir.”

Manufacture and distribution of cart tyres.

* 19 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is incessant demand for cart tyres by the agriculturists;

(b) what arrangements are made to meet the said demand;

(c) whether the Central Government have been asked to arrange for the manufacture and supply of the said cart tyres on a large scale;

(d) whether the Government are now in a position to accept the offer of the Vijayavada Foundry for the supply of cart tyres;

(e) how the distribution of the cart tyres is made and who the distributing authority is;

(f) whether it is a fact that some districts and some villages in some districts receive preference at the hands of the officials concerned in the matter of distribution; and

(g) whether the Government are aware that there is a great deal of discontent among the poorer ryots that the distribution of the agricultural instruments or implements is not done fairly and equitably?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

“ (b) A major portion of the Provincial agricultural quota of iron and steel is set apart for cart tyres and all available stocks of cart tyres are acquired by the Agricultural Department and distributed to ryots through the Agricultural Depots in the Province.

“ (c) The Government of India have been addressed in May 1949 for the supply of 15,000 tons of iron and steel per quarter for agricultural purposes or in the alternative to make a special allotment of 20,000 tons of cart tyres for this Province for the period from 1st April 1949 to 31st March 1950. The matter is still engaging their attention.

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“(d) The offer could not be accepted as the Government of India would not allow the firm to reroll scrap iron and the fixing of higher prices for the rerolled flats.

“(e) The distribution of cart tyres is at present made at the Agricultural Depots by the Agricultural Demonstrators on the recommendations of the village munsifs or the officers of the Revenue Department not lower in rank than a Revenue Inspector. In cases where applications are received direct by the Agricultural Demonstrators, without such recommendation, the Demonstrators inspect the carts and issue cart tyres to ryots. The distributing authority for cart tyres is the Agricultural Demonstrator of the taluk.

“(f) The answer is in the negative. The available quota is equitably distributed to the various districts. The indents for the quotas although prepared on a rational basis are not complied with in full by the Government of India and the stockists do not generally get all the categories planned for. In some districts more cart tyre materials are received sometimes than in others. No preference is given to any district or village.

“(g) The discontent referred to is not due to unequal or unfair distribution but due to the limited supplies against overwhelming demands.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ May I know whether the Director or the Joint Director of Agriculture interferes in the distribution of these iron materials? ”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ Normally he does not interfere unless some defects are brought to his notice.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ May I know whether he recommends supply of these materials to certain persons although the distributing authority is the agricultural officer of the district? ”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ I have just now said that unless specific cases of mismanagement are brought to his notice, he generally does not interfere.”

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—“ May I know whether some of the merchants have been importing from Bengal to Madras by rail? ”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ The Government have no information, Sir.”

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—“ Is there any control of these things in Bengal, Sir? ”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ Notice, Sir.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ Are the Government aware, Sir, that a person got 150 cart tyres in West Godavari? ”

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ The Government have no information.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ Did not a member of this House Sri M. Narayana Rao write about this to the Government and are not the Government aware of it? ”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ I will look into the matter, Sir.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ At first 150 cart tyres were sanctioned to one Narahara Setti Veeraraghavulu. My hon. Friend Mr. M. Narayana Rao protested to the Government about this. In spite of his protest a further consignment of 75 cart tyres has been granted to him. They are now in the office of the District Agricultural Officer for delivery. I do not know what the Government are going to do about this.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ It is a piece of information.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ Are not the Government aware of these things and what has become of the protest of Mr. Mothey Narayana Rao? ”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I should like the hon. Member to make it clear whether these tyres are for Narahara Setti himself or for being handed over to various other people.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ I can give the information, Sir. One Narahara Setti Veeraraghavulu somehow or other managed to get 150 cart tyres under the names of different persons. I protested against it. He was not dealing in the matter honestly. I protested to the Agricultural Officer of the district and he withheld the supply for some time. Thereupon this Narahara Setti Veeraraghavulu came to me and said, ‘ I have spent about Rupees 4,000 to get this supply. I went to Madras three times. I engaged a lawyer. I have got these 150 cart tyres with great difficulty. It is not proper for you now to stand in the way.’ But still I wrote to the Government about this. I learnt just before I started for Madras, that another consignment of 75 tyres were to be given to him for distribution to the various ryots. I know definitely that they do not reach the persons for whom they are intended.”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ My hon. Friend says that they were intended for distribution to so many persons and not to one particular individual. If he puts a separate question about it, I will look into the matter.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ May I ask whether the Government have no machinery to collect information on matters like this? ”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ Only when hon. Members want any information, the Government will collect information, and that too whenever it is possible.”

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Decontrol of procurement and prices of groundnut oil cake.

* 20 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the de-control of procurement and prices of groundnut oil cake has been ordered;

(b) whether it is a fact that, after de-control, there has been abnormal rise in the price of the cake and what the zonal prices are;

(c) whether it is a fact that some restrictions are still imposed on the free movement of the groundnut oil cake;

(d) whether the control of movements has also contributed to increase in the price of oil cake; and

(e) whether the Government have reviewed the whole position so that oil cake may be made easily available to agriculturists at reasonable rates?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“(a) The de-control was ordered with effect from 15th January 1949.

“(b) There has been a rise in prices only at certain centres. The prices are published every fortnight in the Statistical supplement to the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

“(c) It is a fact that movements are regulated. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Press Note issued by the Government on the subject on 30th May 1949. A copy of the Press Note “ is placed on the table of the House.

“(d) The answer is in the negative.

“(e) The matter is under consideration.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“May I know the causes which have contributed to the increase in the prices of oil cake, if it is not the control of movement?”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“There were certain irregularities on the part of the mills. In order to regulate the whole thing, de-control has been resorted to.”

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION.

MR. PRESIDENT :—“This is usually taken as the first item of the day. Evidently the hon. Member is not aware of it. As a special case, I allow it now.”

* JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—“Mr. President, I beg to move the following resolution :—

‘this Council places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Moulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib who was a Member of the Madras Legislative Council and the Central Legis-

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lative Assembly and requests the Hon. the President to convey its sympathies to the members of the bereaved family.'

"I do not think, Sir, that anybody in this House or the province knows Moulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib more than the Hon. the Leader of the House Dr. T. S. S. Rajan who comes from the same district. Moulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib was perhaps the oldest political leader of our province. He lived up to 100 years. He was a member of the Madras Legislative Council from 1910 to 1913. He was a member of the Central Legislative Assembly for a quarter of a century. He worked for the uplift of the poor people in the south. He did much work in the cause of education. He was called the Sir Syed Ahmed Khan of South India. He was a great nationalist till his death. His views of course were not liked by some people. He was a gentleman and he was always consistent in his views. He had always felt that there should be unity among the different communities in the province. He did much towards the cause of Hindu Muslim unity. In his death, this province has lost a great leader. He was admired not only by people in the south but also by the great national leaders of north India. He was a member of the Swaraj Party under the Leadership of Pandit Motilal Nehru. It is necessary that when such a great man dies, this House should place on record its sympathy with the bereaved family and communicate the same to the members of the family. As we have got much work to do, I do not want to say anything more on this occasion. I feel, Sir, that a resolution of this kind is necessary and I request you, Sir, to allow me to move the resolution. I move the resolution :—

'this Council places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Moulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib who was a member of the Madras Legislative Council and the Central Legislative Assembly and requests the Hon. President to convey its sympathies to the members of the bereaved family.'"

* JANAB K. UPPI :—“ Mr. President, I wholeheartedly associate myself with the resolution. I was a colleague of the late Moulvi Syed Murtuza for four years in the Central Assembly. Long before that, he roused the Muslims of the Province during 1920. It was he who along with Sri C. Rajagopalachari, the present Governor-General and the present Leader of the House Dr. Rajan, toured throughout the province and roused the people during the Rowlat Act agitation days. For four years we were together in the Assembly. We were also staying together.

2-15 P.M. “ Sir, he was a man by himself; I should say by habits, he was a saint. He was not a politician, but he was a saint. He was a very learned man; not only that; he practised Islam. He always used to be surrounded by poor orphans; he always had half a dozen orphans around him; he was feeding them and looking after their education. You can understand how very charitable he was, how very helpful he was, if I mention an incident. While we were in Delhi, he came to visit a friend; he came into the room of the

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friend, a Member of the Legislative Assembly, and I too was there. As soon as he came in, the other gentleman humorously said : ' I think I will have to pay a few chips for the hon. Murtuza's visit.' Then he laughed, and I asked him why. He said that whenever Hazrat came in, there were half a dozen or at least one or two orphans by his side and he would have to give a few chips. That was the way he was doing service. All the money he was getting, he was spending on feeding them, giving them toffees, and on educating them. He used to go about begging to help poor children. He was a staunch nationalist. At the same time, Sir, he was an educationist. He was one of the few who were educated in English in his days. Not only that; he did not stop there; he started schools for educating others. Many young men in this presidency owe their education to him and owe their position to him—that was the man. He was a saint, he was a sage, he was a politician and he was also a very all-round man. Sir, we have lost him; the only consolation is, he has lived to a ripe old age to give us his advice. May God bless that his soul shall rest in peace. Sir, I associate myself with this resolution."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, I rise to associate myself with this resolution; I heartily give it my support."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, as the Leader of this House, I associate myself with the resolution that has been moved and seconded in the House. Coming from Trichinopoly as I do, I cannot but speak about the departed gentleman and say a few words about what I know of him. Compared in years, he was much older than I am; he lived a hundred years, which no man has lived in this province, particularly in the south. But more than his age, his capacity for service was unbounded. He was born a poor man, but he was a Moulvi right through. He spent all his hours in the mosque mostly; in fact the mosque was his place of residence; and whenever we found him not in his house, we used to rush to the mosque since we were sure we would find him there. He was with me in the Indian Legislative Assembly when the Congress made up its mind to contest the elections. Of the representatives who went from the south, from our province, he, our Premier, myself and the late Sri C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar were colleagues—we all represented this province in the Indian Legislative Assembly. Mouvli Murtuza Sahib was a very very pleasant man. I do not think he ever got a temper or got angry with any one. He was a clean sober person, was thoughtful and careful about what he said and what he spoke. He was, as has been expressed ably, not only a mere nationalist by word of mouth, but by feeling he was a thorough nationalist. He lived through the stormy days when there was only strife in our country and the question of Hindu-Muslim tension loomed very large in public eyes, but it must be said to his credit that he kept an even temper, and whenever he gave the weight of his support, it was always for a just cause. Trichinopoly being a fairly substantial Muslim centre, it was due to his influence

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and to his presence in public life there that there was not much of a strife between Hindus and Muslims in that town. He was immensely popular and there was not one who could stand against him in any election. He was in the Municipal Council, he was in the local Legislative Council, he was in the Imperial Assembly. In all those contests, he was unique and supreme, and nobody dared contest his candidature. In fact, he took part in almost every public movement worthy of the name in Trichinopoly. I cannot forget his wholehearted sympathies under Gandhiji's leadership, with the Khilafat movement in those days. Four of us toured South India in those days on behalf of the Swaraj party for the Khilafat movement. Moulvi Murtuza Sahib was the first to join us. He kept us company right throughout the tour and in spite of indifferent health he would not budge an inch from the task he had undertaken. He was a man of few wants, had determined courage and was of strong conviction; he stood four-square against all winds of opposition that blew against him. His poverty did not affect his public career and in fact it is not too much to say that he was loved by all, Hindu and Muslim alike, in Trichinopoly. I know he took to travelling many miles a day during the hot sun and in all conditions of weather; and with indifferent health, he went right through the tour, a very strenuous one in which younger men than he felt weak and tired; he won't complain and went right through, all on account of the devotion and the love he had for India and the land he was born in. He was really a very loveable man in private life. Nobody went to him and got a refusal of anything he could possibly give or do. No doubt he might have been more powerful and more influential if he only cared to; but the path of rectitude and morals always got him love from friends and politicians, who knew him as one who never wanted personal aggrandisement. He was very much interested in Muslim education and in Trichinopoly he was looked up to by all Muslims for the support he ably gave them. With Hindus he was equally popular in Trichinopoly and that is exactly the place of all places I knew—and Sved Murtuza Sahib was respected there by all people alike. His career and life are worthy of emulation, and I am sorry that although he had lived a full hundred years, he has not lived longer still to carry on that beneficial influence which he wielded over all the people in Trichinopoly. Therefore, Sir, personally I associate myself with the feelings of his family and of his people who have lost tremendously in him; and as the Leader of this House also, I associate myself entirely with the sentiments expressed by my friends. I also hope this will be conveyed to his family."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Though I am not personally acquainted with the person whose death we are discussing at present, from what I have heard of him, it seems clear that the country has lost a great man and society a good servant. I heartily associate myself with the sentiments expressed here, and I request the House to stand and pass the resolution."

The resolution was put and passed, the House standing.

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III.—MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I have to announce to the House the following messages received from His Excellency the Governor of Madras, dated 12th November 1949 :—

‘ In pursuance of section 82, sub-section (3) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Krishna Kumarsinhji Bhavsinhji, Governor of Madras, hereby recommend to the Madras Legislative Council the consideration of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Bill, 1949.’

‘ In pursuance of section 299, sub-section (3) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Krishna Kumarsinhji Bhavsinhji, Governor of Madras, hereby accord my previous sanction for the introduction of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Bill, 1949, in the Madras Legislative Council.

‘ In pursuance of section 299, sub-section (3) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Krishna Kumarsinhji Bhavsinhji, Governor of Madras, hereby accord my previous sanction for the introduction of the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Bill, 1949, in the Madras Legislative Council.

‘ In pursuance of section 82, sub-section (3) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Krishna Kumarsinhji Bhavsinhji, Governor of Madras, hereby recommend to the Madras Legislative Council, the consideration of the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Bill, 1949 ’.”

IV.—SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1949-50.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ I present, Sir, the Demands for Grants for further expenditure and the Detailed Supplementary Estimates thereof for the year 1949-50.

“ As stated in the introductory Memorandum to the Supplementary statement, the demands are all for token sums in respect of all schemes which are treated as new service and which have been sanctioned or approved by the Government during this year till about the middle of October last. This includes grow-more-food schemes sanctioned against the lump sum provision already made in the budget. I do not propose to go through the details of the demands at present. Necessary information will be found in the detailed supplementary estimates laid on the Table of the House.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The discussion on these will be taken up on the 21st of this month. We will now proceed with the debate on the cyclone havoc.”

V.—DISCUSSION *RE* BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ I was telling the difficulties experienced in the procurement of paddy . . . ”

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MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I wish to inform the House that after this, we have got two Bills, one is the Maintenance of Public Order Bill and the other the Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary powers) Bill. As at present arranged, we are scheduled to meet on the 17th and the 18th but a suggestion has come to me that the 18th may be given to the other House. I wish to ask the House whether it will be possible for this House to finish both the Bills on the 17th and in that connexion, to enquire hon. Members how many are likely to take part in the discussions.”

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—“ Mr. President, I request you to give us the 17th and the 18th, two full days for the discussion of the Bills.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The present position is that the other House has not sent us any other Bills so that except for these two, there is no more work for us for these two days. So, I would like to know how many members are likely to take part in the discussion of these two Bills.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ I just want to remind you, Sir, that there are a few more Ordinance Bills”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ But the other House has not passed them yet.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ But they will be passed in the next two or three days and before this House adjourns, we must pass them so as to give legal sanctions to them and I want that to be considered.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ And for that, what is your suggestion.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ As soon as it is passed there, it will have to be taken up.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Now what about the 18th? I received a request from Mr. Varma that the 18th may be given over to the Assembly. But as at present arranged, we have two Bills to finish within two days, namely, the 17th and the 18th. I want to know from the Leader of the other House, when those other Bills are likely to come up there.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ I am unable to say just now when they are likely to be concluded there. We can take up a decision about the 18th on the 17th.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The difficulty is that the other House is sitting to-morrow and the Speaker has to announce when it is going to meet again; if it is to meet on the 18th, he will have to announce to-morrow and we have to decide about it now to enable him to make the announcement. The Hon. Minister knows we are not meeting to-morrow.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ If it is the wish of the House that it wants two days, I think we can accommodate and have the Assembly on the following day.”

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MR. PRESIDENT :—“ That is why I want to take the opinion of the House whether it wants 18th or not.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ These two Bills, Mr. President, are very important Bills and the time taken by hon. Members necessarily, having regard to the importance, is bound to be long. It may not be possible now to say that this could be over in one day. I think, Sir, that these two important Bills will take two full days. I suggest, Sir, that if the other House requires the 18th we may not sit on the 18th but we might sit later on. We would finish those Bills as early as we can.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ If the other Ordinance Bills are also disposed of in the other House on the 16th and sent on to this House, they will also be available for discussion by this House on the 18th.”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ To-morrow until lunch time the Assembly is having the cyclone . . . ”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The discussions will not go cyclonic, I believe.” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ And after lunch, there are three or four Bills to regularize Ordinances and they have to be passed into law. I do not think they could be finished within half a day. The Rent Control Bill if taken up, is likely to take a full day, as there is likely to be a general discussion on the working of the provisions of the Act and it will not be possible to finish it to-morrow. After that, the only day on which it could be done is the 18th, as this House meets on the 17th.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ As it is, Sir, it is possible for us to take the 18th.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I think if it is needed, we can take the 18th here.”

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—“ Are we having the 18th, Sir? ”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Yes.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ I was narrating to you, Sir, about the difficulties in the distribution of food for the victims of the cyclone havoc. Without exaggeration, I may tell you that there was one dead and there were several casualties in the struggle for obtaining rice.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I would like to meet the Hon. Leaders of both Houses and the Chief Whip and discuss with them the programme of legislation for this month. Shall it be after we rise, or to-morrow? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ The Government Whip is engaged . . . ”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ So, to-morrow morning before you go to the other House, we will discuss the programme. Is that agreed? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Yes, Sir.”

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VI.—DEBATE ON THE DAMAGES BY CYCLONE IN ANDHRA
DISTRICTS—*cont.*

* SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ I was telling you, Sir, that there was one death and some casualties in the struggle for rice. As usual, wisdom dawns rather late on Government officials and the next day or course, they took Police help in the distribution of rice. The prices of rice and other foodstuffs have gone up abnormally and the after-storm prices are nearly double the pre-storm prices. Chillies are selling at Rs. 5-8-0 per viss, tamarind Rs. 1-12-0 per viss, jaggery Rs. 2-4-0 a viss and sugar from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 a viss. The Hon. the Revenue Minister was telling us yesterday that the Government are taking steps to see that the prices of foodstuffs do not go up. There are stocks available with merchants and they have put up the prices taking advantage of the present position in the districts. I wish to know what the Government have done to see that the stocks available with the merchants are distributed fairly. Could not the Collectors be authorized, if necessary, to seize them and make them available to the people at reasonable prices? The prices are anything between six to eight times the pre-war price and twice the pre-storm price. People are much in distress and they have no money with which to buy their necessities. The cyclone has caused unprecedented havoc. The Government servants of course are trying to do something and it is not tangible. At least, the price of foodstuffs could have been controlled and they should be made available to peasants and labourers. (At this stage, the Deputy President occupied the Chair.) There is some defect in the present machinery; it is not moving as fast as we would wish it to move; it is the same old machinery; the system is the same old system but only it is now called the popular Government. The people who are working the machinery are the same old people with this difference that they are a little more indifferent, a little more callous and extremely corrupt. That is the only difference I find about the Government officials. I would like to suggest to the members of the Cabinet that they tour all these districts to see what the Government officials are doing; I do not want them to go round and see the nature and extent of the havoc caused by the cyclone but to see how the relief measures are being implemented and how the Government servants are taking steps to see that the inflation in the matter of prices of foodstuffs is checked and how supplies are made available to the people. Until now, not one Minister—not one of the popular Ministers—has cared to go round and see these things though they find time to open cinema houses, coffee hotels and all that when such a great calamity has occurred. I do not want to offend anybody but that is on the lips of every being and I think it is my duty to bring it to the notice of the House. They may say that they are busy with the sessions. It is because Government officials are not paying prompt attention to relief measures that I want the Ministers to go to these parts and sit tight over them and see that proper relief measures are undertaken as early as possible. I believe Government will rise to the occasion and see that they do not make vain promises and indefinite promises but act quickly and promptly. The havoc affected four districts and unfortunately there is not one Minister representing those districts in the Cabinet. If there had been one Minister in the Cabinet, perhaps things would have been different.

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I appeal to the Hon. Premier and the Cabinet as a whole to see that proper redress is given to those four districts as early as possible even if it means that the present session is adjourned for the present; we might meet some time later to go through the business. It is our duty to attend to the needs of the people affected so very badly; it is more urgent than trying to regularize Ordinances by means of regular Bills. Even after the advent of Independence, rule by Ordinance has become a routine matter and we can just use the Ordinances for some time longer and there will be nothing lost. I would impress upon the Government that their duty is to stand by their people when their homesteads are gone, their crops damaged and the cattle destroyed by this cyclone. I hope they will at least now realise what it will mean to the ryots if they speak some words of consolation and sympathy. This will go a long way to relieve suffering. Remissions should be very liberally given. We have no seeds for the second crop and it must be brought from somewhere either from the north or Nellore and it must be given before the end of this month. The Agriculture Department should be alert to see that seed is distributed at once either by themselves or through private agencies. Tanks and canals have been damaged and some of them are in Zamindari areas. They must also be repaired immediately. Then, Sir, there should be free distribution of cloth and building materials. Water for second crop should be liberally given to areas affected by cyclone. Such areas should have a preference over others.

“ Then, Sir, there is one other subject. There are several lessees who have lost all their crop. They should be given protection against the lessors. Otherwise the lessors would ask them to measure the lease amount, and demand their pound of flesh. At present there is nothing to protect them against this. In Narasapur taluk the fishermen have lost their boats and nets too. They have all been washed away. There is not even one boat now there. It is an unprecedented cyclone we had there. In times past we have heard of tidal wave submerging Masulipatnam. The recent tidal wave has gone inland in Narasapur, Amalapuram and other coastal places and destroyed the boats and nets of the fishermen. The nets would be costing Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 each. These fishermen have nothing to fall back upon to earn their livelihood and they have no money to purchase either boats or nets. So the money necessary for that should be advanced to them. If Government do not take proper measures at the proper time, I warn them, they would make the country a seed bed for Communists. Already there have been two riots in two or three districts. In a village called Kavali, four miles from Elluru, the poor people gathered together and wanted the ryots to give them rice at the rate of three seers per acre. To this the ryots would not agree. Then they demanded that at least one measure of rice should be sold at twelve-annas from every influential ryot. Somehow or other the ryots would not agree to this also. Then what happened? That night there was a riot, and paddy amounting to forty or fifty bags was taken away. And I hear the Police came on the scene next morning, seized the whole stock and gave the same back to the dispossessed ryots. In

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such things, when the intention of the people is not bad, Government ought to be lenient towards them. There were two or three cases like that, where people went and took the stock of grains forcibly. I would like to bring to the notice of Government that it was only out of pressing need they did so, or rather to satisfy their hunger. So Government should not be very strict in dealing with them.

“Then, Sir, I must tell one other thing. In spite of all this havoc we expect that before the year is over we would be able still to supply to other districts a lakh of tons of rice. So Government should take care to see that proper arrangements are made at proper time. Here I would heartily associate myself with the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition made yesterday, namely, that a very influential committee should be formed to make collections of relief from all over the Province. I appeal to the people of our Province to come forward, and true to their salt, contribute liberally to the relief fund, as suggested by the Leader of the Opposition. I thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on this motion.”

* SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—“అధ్యక్ష, మా విశాఖపట్నం జిల్లాలో తుపానువల్ల ఎంత నష్టం కలిగిందో మా జిల్లానుంచి వచ్చిన మెంబర్లు నిన్నటి రోజున చెప్పియున్నారు. మా జిల్లాలో ఉన్న 20 తాలూకాలలో పాతపట్నం, పాలకొండ, అనకాపల్లి తాలూకాలు మూడు మాత్రమే surplus తాలూకాలు, మిగతావన్నీ తరుగు తాలూకాలు. జిల్లాలో చాలా భాగము మెట్ట ప్రాంతము. పాతపట్నం తాలూకాలో సకాలంగా వర్షాలులేక పంటలు లేకపోలే మాగాణి ప్రాంతాలు ఈ తుపానువల్ల అపరిమితమైన నష్టం జరిగింది. అనకాపల్లి పట్టణంలో Sub-Treasury లోని సుమారు లక్ష యిరువది ఆరుదువేల రూపాయలు విలవగల కరెన్సీ నోట్లు కొన్ని పాను నల్లమందు ఎక్కడ నున్నవో తెలుసుకోడానికి కూడ వీలు కరుుండా శారదానది సంగమంవల్ల కొట్టుకోపోయినట్లు తెలియవచ్చినది. అనకాపల్లి పట్టణం ఆంత్రా నీటి మయమై పోయింది. అనేక యిండ్లు కూలిపోయినాయి. ఇదే విధముగ ఉత్తర విశాఖ జిల్లాలో ఉన్న శ్రీకాకుళం మొదలగు పట్టణాలన్ని కూడ ముణిగిపోయినాయి. ప్రజలకు, పంటలకు, పశువులకు కలిగిన నష్టం చాలా భున్నవి. వరిపంట పూర్తిగా పాడైపోయింది. అసలే మా జిల్లా deficit జిల్లా. దానికి పాడు ఈ తుపానుతో ఉన్న వరిపంట కాస్త తుడుచుకోపోయింది. ఇదివరలో మా ప్రక్కనన్న తూర్పు గోదావరి జిల్లానుంచి బియ్యము తెప్పించి ప్రభుత్వవారు మాకు సప్లై చేయున్నూ ఉండే వాళ్ళు. ఇప్పుడు గోదావరి జిల్లాలకూడ పెద్దదెబ్బ తిన్నాయి. ఇటువంటి పరిస్థితులలో వచ్చే సంవత్సరం మా జిల్లాలో కాటకం వచ్చునని కూడ అనుకుంటున్నారు. మా జిల్లాలో ప్రెమియరుగారు ఆంధ్రరాజులై తిరగక పోవడంవల్ల అనుకున్నంత నష్టం రాజాగారికి తెలియక పోవచ్చును.”

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMY RAJA:—“మీ జిల్లాలో అందరు రాజులే.”

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—“చన ప్రధాన మంత్రిగారి పూర్వులు కూడ రెండు వందల సంవత్సరాల క్రితము మా విశాఖపట్టణము జిల్లావారే. ఈ రెండు

15th November 1949] [Sri N. Venkatachalamaji]

వందల సంవత్సరముల నుంచి వారి వంశము వారు దక్షిణ దేశం లో ఉంటున్నారు. ఆంధ్ర రాష్ట్రము వచ్చిన తరువాత వారు తిరిగి మా జిల్లాకు వస్తారని ఆశుకొంటున్నాను.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :— వారు రాదు.”

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—“ వారు రావాలనే మేము కోరుకొంటాము. ఈ తుపానువల్ల పంటలకే కాకుండా పూరి ఇండ్లకు చాలా దండగ కలిగింది. కూలి చేసుకొనే ప్రజలకు ఇప్పుడు నిలవటానికి నీడలేదు. తుపాను బాధితులకు సహాయంచేసే నిమిత్తం గవ్వ మెంటువారు రూ 75,000 లు సాంక్షి చేసినా మని చెప్పినారు. ఈ రూ 75,000 లు చాలా తక్కువ. ఒక గ్రామంలోనే ఇంత దండగ జరిగి ఉంటుంది. ఏమైనప్పటికీ మీ ప్రజలకు సహాయం చేయడం గవర్న మెంటు వారి ధర్మం. ముఖ్యంగా గవర్న మెంటువారు ఇస్తున్న డబ్బు సరిగ్గా ప్రజలకు అందేటట్లు చూడాలి. లోగడ 1945 సంవత్సరంలో తుపాను వచ్చి ఇండ్లు పోయినవారికి ఒక్కొక్క ఇంటికీ రూ 5 లు బొప్పన sanction చేసినారు. అప్పుడు ఈ రూ 5 లలో రూ 4 మాత్రమే ఒక్కొక్కనికి దక్కింది. మిగతా రూ. 1 విలెజి కరణం, ముసనబు ఇతర డివైజులకు రోయింది. ఇప్పుడు కూడా అదేవిధంగా జరిగిందా చూడడం చాల అత్యవసరం. ఇటువంటి అన్యాయాలు జరుగుతున్నా చూడటానికిగాను ఈ డబ్బు పంచివెట్టే ఆఫీసర్లతో కొంత non-officials ను కూడ చేర్చినట్లయితే బాగుంటుందని నా అభిప్రాయం. అప్పుడు పంపకం సక్రమంగా నిజముగా నష్టము కలిగిన వాళ్లకు జరుగుతుంది. ఈ తుపానువల్ల పరిశుభ్రము ఎక్కువ నష్టం కలిగి పంట పాడై పోయింది కాబట్టి ఈ ప్రాంతాలలో procurement లేకుండా చేయడం చాలా ముంచిది. అంతే కాకుండా సరఫరా చేసే ధాన్య కూడా నిర్ణయించి ఆ ధరల ప్రకారము ప్రజలకు బియ్యం దొరికే విధానము చేయవలసివుంటుంది. అంతే కాకుండా ఎవరైనా స్వంత ఉపయోగార్థము తిండి లేని ఈ రోజులలో 4, 5, 6 నేర్ల కొద్దిపాటి బియ్యాన్ని తీసుకొని పోతుంటే, వాళ్లను అధికారులు పట్టుకొని శిక్షించకుండా చూడడం చాలా అవసరం. ఇటువంటి నియమం చేస్తే పాతిక జనానికి కొద్దిగా తిండి దొరుకుతుంది లేక పోయినట్లయితే వాళ్లు ప్రభుత్వంవారు ఇవ్వదలచే 6 టన్నులలో 8 టన్నుల ration మీద జీవించడం దుర్లభము. కాబట్టి ఎవరైనా వారి స్వంత ఉపయోగార్థము నేనే పాతులవద్దగాని బియ్యం వద్దగాని బియ్యం తెచ్చుకుంటే వాళ్లను శిక్షించ పూనుకోవద్దని నా కోరిక.

“ మా విశ్వాపట్నం జిల్లాలో చాలా భాగం జమీందారీ ప్రాంతమైయున్నది. జమీందారీలను రద్దు చేసిన తరువాత ప్రభుత్వంవారు బొబ్బిలి, జమీనగరిం జమీందారీలను రెండింటిని మాత్రమే స్వాధీనం చేసుకొనినారు. ఇంకా అనేక చిన్న జమీందారీలు ఉన్నాయి. వాటిని కూడ వెంటనే స్వాధీనం చేసుకొని ఆ జమీందారీ ప్రాంతాలలో యుండే చెరువులను, కాలువలను కంటనే పురమృతు చేసినట్లయితే, వచ్చే సంవత్సరానికైనా తరులు వ్యవసాయం చేసుకోడానికి వీలుగా ఉంటుందని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను.”

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“ The Hon. Minister for Public Works will not make a statement.”

* **THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—**“ Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I would like to make a brief statement explaining the position relating to irrigation works in the cyclone-affected areas. 4 p.m.
I can appreciate the anxiety of the House over the devastating

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 floods which took a heavy toll of life and property in the Circars. It is desirable, that on such occasions, hon. Members should focus attention on the gravity of the calamity, so that avoidable shortcomings in the administration of departments charged with flood protection and irrigation, are brought to light and corrected. In order to assess how far these departments and the Government are responsible for the recent havoc, hon. Members should examine the map showing the location of our irrigation tanks in the uplands above the Delta. All the tanks in a basin or valley lie interconnected, the surplus of the higher tank supplementing the supply of the lower tank. Some of these basins or valleys contain over 100 tanks, the surplus of the last tank of the basin emptying its surplus into a river or stream. If we get a heavy spell of rain when these tanks are lying empty, no great damage is done, because the water is held up in all these tanks and very little is left over after filling the last tank. But if at a time when all the tanks are full, another heavy spell of rain follows, the entire rain-waters will have to find their way to the sea, because the tanks can hold up no more. If during that period one of the upper tanks breaches, the storage in that tank gushes forth and swells the next lower tank in a few hours, overflows its surplus weirs and bunds and causes breaches in the lower tank. This process is repeated in the succeeding lower tanks also and the flood waters gather size and momentum like an avalanche. This is an unavoidable feature in our minor irrigation systems and we have taken the consequences of this feature during cyclones all through the centuries. In the September floods, we had over 9 inches of rain in the uplands of Krishna and Guntur and all the irrigation tanks were full. Within four weeks of this, came the present cyclone with 13 inches of rain in 36 hours. The tanks were already full and had no reserve capacity. The heavy gale reaching 80 miles per hour, set up wave action which ripped up the bunds and caused breaches in the upper tanks. When once the upper tanks started breaching, it was a question of a few hours before lower tanks breached in large numbers releasing heavy floods. It is not only the rain waters of the present cyclone that came down, but also the waters stored up in the tanks during the earlier September rains.

“ In the taluks of Nuzvid and Tiruvor alone there are about 650 Zamin tanks of which no less than 300 have breached. If these Zamin tanks had been well-maintained ones, perhaps the number of breaches would have been small ; but even well-maintained tanks are not proof against abnormal weather conditions of this kind. Cyclones in the past may not have done this much of damage, but that was because the tanks were not lying so full as on this occasion when the cyclone commenced. In assessing responsibility, hon. Members should not forget that damage of this kind is an unavoidable evil of the system in which our tanks lie one below the other in a chain.

“ I do appreciate the necessity of harnessing up the Budameru in its upper reaches so that the intensity of floods may be moderated. Actually a reservoir has been investigated with a capacity of about 1,500 M.C. feet capable of irrigating about 10,000 acres at a cost.

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on present day rates, of about one crore of Rupees. The difficulty with this project is that it would submerge about 2,400 acres of existing cultivation including valuable wet lands. The bulk of the ayacut will also be covered by the Ramapadasagar, when that project materialises. These were the reasons, and they are indeed good reasons, why we have not taken up this scheme so far. But hon. Members should not gain the impression that if this scheme had been completed, it would have arrested the present floods. The Budameru has a catchment of 700 square miles before it enters the Collair Lake. At the proposed reservoir site it has a catchment of only 200 square miles. Even this proposed reservoir would have been full by the September rains, and so it would have had little value as a flood-moderator in the present cyclone. About 30,000 M.C. feet of water passed through the Budameru during this cyclone. A reservoir of 1,500 M.C. feet could have held up only one-twentieth of that water. Again the Collair Lake has a catchment of 2,000 square miles of which the catchment of Budameru is only one-third and the portion of the catchment above the proposed reservoir only one-twentieth. Therefore, as far as the present floods are concerned, the omission to construct a reservoir on the Budameru could have made little or no difference.

"I have seen an amendment given notice of by the hon. Sri B. Narayanaswami Nayudu suggesting that the Budameru breaches should be forthwith repaired and closed. I can assure him that the Government will do everything in that direction.

"A scheme has been investigated for widening the Upputeru drain at a cost of about Rs. 85 lakhs. A special revenue staff is now examining the revenue aspects of this scheme. This scheme will be of considerable assistance in normal years by relieving submersion on about 10,000 acres of land lying on either side of it. An equal extent of land may also be reclaimed by this scheme and therefore the question of its execution will be considered by the Government as soon as the Board's report is received.

"The Public Works Department and Revenue staff are doing their very best to repair the breach damages to irrigation works. The Additional Chief Engineer visited the area and organized special repair gangs at all places. A special breach-closing division has been constituted and is now engaged on the Ellore canal which has breached in 75 places. One thousand five hundred coolies are working there to-day and it is hoped that the canal will carry water in a day or two. The regular staff that could be gathered up from different parts of the Province, have all been put on special duty in this area. The Samalkot canal which was also heavily breached has been repaired and is now carrying water. Repairs are going on with vigour on all the breached sections of all canals. Fortunately no appreciable damage has been caused to the Krishna anicut and headworks. Instructions have already been issued that preference should be given to areas affected by floods in the matter of permission for second crop cultivation. Repairs to irrigation tanks are also going on side by side, the first effort being to put up ring-bunds over breaches so that sufficient water may be preserved for the season for existing crops. Another special Public Works Department Division is being organized under the Food Commissioner to

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attend to zamin tanks and this division will assist the breach-closing work in zamin areas. I can assure the House that everything possible will be done to repair the damage without avoidable delay and for that purpose the Chief Engineer has already been authorized to incur expenditure in anticipation of Government's sanction."

(At this stage the Hon. President resumed the chair.)

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, any reader of the Krishna District Manual will know that, in regard to the cyclone in 1864, there was a gentleman who slept soundly in his house and had to be woken up in the morning and shown the water swirling round to realize the havoc caused by the cyclone. That is the story told in the Krishna District Manual. I am afraid that is a charge that must be laid against this Government. When a storm was sweeping certain parts of the Province, the Government were sleeping in Fort St. George. When he was accosted about this and asked to say whether the report of the damage by the storm was correct or not, the Hon. Premier said that it was an exaggeration. Is it an exaggeration? Will the Hon. Minister or the Premier see for himself whether it is an exaggeration or a stark reality? Is he going to be like the gentleman who was sleeping in his bungalow throughout the night of the storm or will he see and satisfy himself that it is not at all in exaggeration but a tragic, stark and naked reality? When the Pressmen interviewed the Hon. Premier he thought it was a polling booth business. But unfortunately it was not a polling booth business to catch votes. It was a case in which the people suffered from the effects of a cyclone. Will the Government at least now say what has happened? That is the first point.

" The second point which I bring to the notice of the House is this. Every Collector's report refers to the damage to the dwelling houses and the people rendered homeless. The newspapers lay emphasis on this. But what is the real damage caused to the country by the destruction of crops and what is the emphasis the Government have laid on this? Newspapers also have not laid emphasis on this. Though three weeks have elapsed since the cyclone, though the Collector's reports have been received, though the Members of the Board of Revenue toured the affected parts, is there any information about the extent of damage to the crops? For instance, the report relating to Guntur District says : " Standing crops damaged so many acres." If you say that there is cold, what is the nature of the cold? Is it bronchitis or pneumonia or what else is it? Do the Government know how many acres of paddy have been destroyed? What is the loss in cultivation? Have they assessed the damage and provided for it? There is no further detail beyond the statement that so many acres of standing crops were damaged. If you go to the Krishna or any other delta district, the first point that has to be considered soon after a cyclone is not the area of crop under water but the extent of water on the crop. There is difference between a crop under water and a crop with water in the field. You can take it that the crop with water on it is practically damaged whereas the crop under water will not be so much damaged. But the crop with water in it is a definite loss

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and must be written off. The real question is not about the number of acres damaged but the extent of submersion. In how many acres has the water gone over the crops and how many villages are affected in that manner? The mere remark that so many acres of crop have been damaged will not do, from, however, exalted a person it may come. Every one knows that as soon as a strong wind blows, the crops will be shaken this side and that, the grains will fall, and there will be damage. Is any information about the extent of damage placed before the House? Has the Hon. Food Minister, who is keen on procurement, got any figures? I know that the crops in certain villages of the Krishna district were submerged by the waters of the Budameru river. The reports about the West Godavari district refer to the loss in the area under Basangi paddy. How long are we to live under statistics of this type? The Basangi crop raised in the Krishna district is practically a total loss and it should be written off. If, in a village of three hundred acres, there is water for six or seven days, what is the loss? May I put this question to the Hon. Minister for Finance, who is here now? The newspapers said that he was in Vijayavada during the storm and that he safely returned to the Government House. The cost of ploughing, manuring and transplanting one acre in the deltaic area comes to one hundred rupees. For three hundred acres, the loss in cost of cultivation due to destruction of crops comes to thirty-thousand rupees. What is the emphasis laid on this loss, whereas much emphasis has been laid on the damage due to the falling of houses, huts and so on?

"I have given notice of an amendment suggesting that the Budameru breaches should be forthwith repaired and closed so as to enable cultivation to be carried on in the year 1950 pending long-term measures to prevent inundation by Budameru waters. The Hon. Minister for Public Works was kind enough to refer to this and say that all possible steps would be taken. But I want to know what report he has got, where it has breached, how many villages the water has submerged, and what is the extent of loss. If he had any information, he would have placed it before the House. The Budameru Reservoir is a long-term measure. It is a Lingadu business. It is like talking of unborn children and saying that I will provide nose screws and ear-rings for them.

"Sir, I want to know whether the Government have got any long-term plans or measures to check the recurring ravages due to periodical floods and cyclone. Is there any mention of them in their report? Absolutely none. That is why I say, this is all Lingadu business. I want to know what are they going to do definitely."

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Before that we want to know what is the meaning of Lingadu business, Sir?"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I should like to say something before we proceed further. I want the co-operation of the House to see that the discussion on this subject is finished to-day. I am prepared

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to allow the House to sit a little late, if necessary, but I want that the Members should close the debate on this motion to-day, because there are hardly two days before us. I therefore request hon. Members to co-operate with me and see that this debate is finished to-day itself, and be as brief as possible in their speeches. I am constrained to make this observation, because I see that the hon. Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu is still on his legs."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, I was just referring to the loss sustained in every village in the Andhra district on account of the floods in the Budameru river and was saying that the statement of the Government does not at all correctly show the extent of the damages caused, nor the plans they have for the immediate future. That is why I want a more detailed report in the matter. Let a report be called for from the Collector of the district in respect of the villages into which the Budameru waters had entered and destroyed the crops. We have seen with our own eyes the havoc caused by the floods and cyclone in these villages. What has Mr. Kala Venkata Rao, who has actually toured these districts, said about it? His statement has appeared in the papers. What has the Board of Revenue said about it? All have admitted that the villain of the piece is the Budameru and that is responsible for all these ravages. But, on the other hand, the Hon. Minister for Public Works, in his statement has said that the omission to construct a reservoir on the Budameru could not have made any difference and therefore that is not the thing we want to do. But we say that the Budameru is the villain and we want to know how are you going to book this villain. What is the answer of the Public Works Minister? This is a cyclone damage, and damage due to floods. This is not happening to-day only, but this has been happening periodically. We cannot take this lying down. That is why I have asked through my amendment, 'Never mind about what long-term measures you are going to take in respect of the Budameru Reservoir, but what is it that you are going to do immediately to rehabilitate the people who are affected by the present floods, and what steps are you going to take to enable them to cultivate their second crop at once?' We know that these lands had been inundated during the floods of the year 1945 and again now, in 1949 the same thing has happened. Will the Government call for a report from all the villages which have suffered by the Budameru floods as to what they have done to alleviate the distress among the people and what action they have taken to close and repair the breaches? That is why, Sir, I have put it in the first sub-clause of my amendment, which says—

'(a) That Budameru breaches be forthwith repaired and closed so as to enable cultivation to be carried on for the year 1950 pending long-term measures to prevent inundation by Budameru waters.'

"I say, Sir, it is not only a sin against the people affected, but a sin against God to take no steps earlier to put up a reservoir and prevent inundation by its waters, in spite of the fact that this has been happening periodically and in spite of the fact that we have been urging for the construction of a reservoir even from 1947.

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"Then, Sir, let me read sub-clause (b) of my amendment. It says—

'that a Crop Insurance State-aided Corporation be forthwith started to insure crops against inundation and pest losses and the funds thereof be partially recovered by a compulsory levy of further sales-tax on all stock-piles and stocks of rice held by the Government of Madras.'

"Sir, I want that a compulsory levy of further sales-tax should be made on the stock-piles and stocks of rice held by the Government of Madras. Sir, I am sorry that the Hon. Finance Minister is not here. I have seen in the papers that Member after Member in the other House got up and urged that the sales-tax should not fall on the consumer. Therefore it is, that I have purposely put down here that the funds of the Crop Insurance Corporation be partially recovered by a compulsory levy of further sales-tax on all stock-piles and stocks of rice held by the Government, in order to see that the cost of living index does not go up. I do not know, Sir, how much stock is there in the Government stock-pile, but I want that some advance should be made to those persons by the State-aided Finance Corporation or from State funds, as compensation for the loss they have suffered. I know that there is an Industrial Finance Corporation, which has come about very late, but I do not know what it has been doing now. Is it not incumbent upon the Government similarly to start a crop insurance corporation and see that the ryots who raised food-crops do not suffer any loss and that they are compensated for any loss suffered by them on account of pests, floods, cyclone and other periodical ravages? Just as this Industrial Finance Corporation is set up to help the industrialists with finance in the case of loss, so also, the agriculturists who cultivate lands and produce food for people in the Province, should be helped and financed by the State-aided crop insurance corporation, if they suffer loss by any of these causes. Session after session, during all these three years, we have been having food debates, and everybody has been complaining about the high procurement prices which the Government have been paying for the food-grains, and everybody has been urging that the Government should procure at the lowest possible cost, but nobody ever thought of the possible ravages and losses that were likely to be suffered by the ryots by reason of floods and cyclone. Of course, during all these years, the yield has been good and you have been taking away all their surplus food-grains, paying as little as possible. Now what does Malabar say to the losses that the Andhra has suffered? What does Coimbatore say, which wants about 90,000 tons of rice every year? What does the Government of Travancore say? What do the other deficit districts, which depend on the Andhra districts for their food, say in this great calamity which has befallen the Circars and the Andhra deltas? That is why, Sir, I say in the second clause of my resolution that on the stock-piles of food-grains at the hands of the Government should be compulsorily levied a sales-tax to be borne by the deficit districts. They should come forward and say, 'No doubt you are a good man; you have done well all these years and you have given us food at a reasonable price; now that you are in distress, we shall pay something more by way of sales-tax just to compensate the loss you have sustained'. That should be the attitude of the deficit districts now towards the Deltas.

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"Then, Sir, let me come to sub-clause (c) of my amendment. It says—

'that all ryots whose holdings were submerged with water flowing over the head of the paddy crop for at least two days be given interest-free loans at the rate of Rs. 100 per acre repayable in yearly instalments by not less than five years and other ryots whose holdings were partially submerged be given remission of rent or revenue.'

"Sir, this is only consequential upon what I have said in clause (b). Now all the crops are going to be lost and the least that you can do is to rehabilitate them by giving them interest-free loans at the rate of Rs. 100 per acre, recoverable in yearly instalments within a certain number of years.

"Then, Sir, clause (d) of my amendment says—

'that there be started at once a State-aided Flood Damage Corporation for dwellings or cattle sheds or grain godowns to which shall be contributed in the inception a compulsory levy of costs per house on all tiled or upstairs houses worth more than five thousand rupees in the city municipalities and panchayats.'

"My idea in making this suggestion is this. Even to-day you are only looking after the dwelling houses in the cities and towns, but you do not bestow any attention towards rural housing. I have been raising this point in almost every debate on housing in this House, but no answer has been given to that. Now, what does my Hon. Friend the Minister for Housing, Mr. Sanjeeva Reddi, say in regard to the losses that these poor villagers have suffered by reason of these floods and cyclone? Not a single pie has been spent hitherto on rural housing schemes, and people in rural areas are suffering equally, if not greater, than people in cities and towns. Lakhs and lakhs of rupees are being spent in urban areas for improvement of drainages, etc., while rural areas are left uncared for. Now you have a spectacle of what has happened in the villages.

"Again, Sir, I have been urging several times in this House for the starting of a compulsory cattle insurance scheme in this Province, the necessity for which is well known to all. I do not know whether there is any such scheme in vogue in other Provinces, but I am told by the Government that they do not know anything about it. Now, Sir, thousands and thousands of cattle had been washed away by these floods and many huts and houses had been destroyed, but there is no scheme to rehabilitate them or insure them against such losses. That is why I have suggested in my resolution that you should levy a compulsory tax on tiled and upstairs houses worth more than Rs. 5,000 in municipal and urban areas and divert the tax so collected for the purpose of rehabilitating people in the rural areas, who have lost their houses and cattle on account of the cyclone and floods. My submission is that townsmen must compensate villagers, who suffer by such calamities.

"Then, Sir, I come to the last portion of my amendment. Clause (e) of my amendment says—

'that procurement or export of paddy or rice from the Circars be immediately stopped till the next crop.'

"Sir, hitherto the Government have been taking away all the surplus rice and paddy from these districts. Now they have not got

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enough stocks for themselves. These floods have destroyed their crops and so till the next harvest, there will be nothing for them to eat and they will have to get on with their little stocks on hands. Now, what do we find in the streets of Vijayavada, or Masulipatnam or other big towns? Queues of people are standing in front of shops for purchasing rice. Therefore we should see that people are not allowed to starve by procuring the rice compulsorily from those districts and transporting it to other districts for distribution, and add to their tragedy. Therefore, Sir, I have said, let us stop forthwith this compulsory procurement business. Let us say, full stop to all procurement hereafter."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—"Mr. President, Sir, with depressed thoughts and oppressed emotions, I stand here to offer a few remarks on the havoc that has been caused by the recent floods and cyclone in our districts in the Andhra Desa, although they may be very unpleasant to members of the Treasury Benches. I am sorry to state that the people's Government and a Government in whom the electorate has reposed so much confidence could not discharge the trust properly during this hour of crisis. The statement made by the Hon. Minister for Revenue as regards the relief that was given and that would be given to the people affected is really very vague. There is no concrete proposal mentioned in it. It is stated that a sum of Rs. 5 to 10 will be paid to those who have lost their huts. I want to tell him, Sir, that previous to the floods, bamboo poles were selling at Re. 1-4-0 each. For a hundred poles the cost was Rs. 125 before. But now after the cyclone, the prices of building materials have been doubled and to reconstruct one hut, a person will require at least Rs. 100. The Government say that they are going to pay only Rs. 5 to 10 for those whose huts and houses have been destroyed. How will that be sufficient? It is also stated in the statement that building materials have been supplied to those who have lost their houses. But there is nothing stated about what sort of housing materials have been supplied and how much has been supplied and whether it is possible for them to rebuild their houses by means of these materials.

"Sir, as far as the district of West Godavari is concerned, can say without fear of contradiction, that nothing in that direct has been done. I started from my place on the 8th of this month and I know that nothing was done. What amount was spent by the Revenue department or any other department in the Godavari district in supplying bamboos and other building materials for reconstructing the houses which had been destroyed has been stated, so as to give us an idea of the rehabilitative work by the Government. Of course, the Hon. Minister has said that he had given Rs. 40,000 to West Godavari for this work. When I was in Eluru on the 8th instant, I was not supplied properly. I started for Madras on the 10th instant, and that many of the people had no rice for days. I was held up and was held presided over by the Collector, and at the meeting and I told the Collector that I had been in the district for days together and also about the sort of rice

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also that the people in the neighbouring villages were suffering from want of rice and that they could not get it even in the black-market. But the Collector contradicted it and said that there were large stocks of rice in West Godavari and that they were enough to feed all the people. I do not know what data he had with him or with what authority he had said like that. But I know that people were fasting since the cyclone started. We cannot have an idea of the enormous amount of suffering that people had been put to, in towns as well as in the village parts.

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"Even after the cyclone, this is the fate of the people there from where much of the rice was exported to other parts of this Province. I know why we were so badly treated. I know not even one Minister except one Hon. Minister, came to our place. Perhaps this sort of interest on the part of our Ministers was entirely responsible for the utter negligence and the bad treatment that was given to us by the Government as a whole."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" May I know if the hon. Member does not claim others as his Ministers? "

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I do claim, Sir; I do belong to that party, and I am one of those people."

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA :—" He means Andhra Ministers."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member said ' My Ministers '. That is why I asked him ' do you not claim others as your Ministers? ' "

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I do claim, Sir. That is why I already told these things plainly."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Is not Mr. Sitarama Reddi an Andhra Minister, Sir? "

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Sir, the statements made by the Hon. Minister for Revenue and the Hon. Minister for Public Works, have, on all hands, accepted that the damage was very heavy and people have suffered heavily, and that something must be done to relieve them of their difficulties. No doubt it is too late now. Now at least they have realized that they have to do something for these three districts."

చలి వడికించు కాలమున చక్కని భాషని ఎందరూగి ఉ
జ్వలమున వేసవిక సరదు భాషరతేజము మెచ్చనే రుదన్

"One Andhra poet has written that ' We praise the Sun in the winter days but in summer we cannot appreciate the Sun '. Likewise these districts were praised, cajoled and were forced to export all the rice they had got. Now when there is no rice, not a bag of rice has been imported into these districts, and the rice that is lying in these districts was not properly distributed. I am not here to blame anybody or any officer or even our own non-officials. All that the Revenue department and the Government

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could do was that they began forming non-official committees to collect funds and distribute those funds after the cyclone was over. This is just like trying to dig a well while the house is on fire. How long will these committees take to collect funds, and how much time will it take to distribute the funds? It is already three weeks since the cyclone overtook these places. People were thrown into the open air, in this winter season. They have no rice to eat and no roof to sit under. Still, we are thinking of measures of forming non-official committees to collect funds. Is this the way, I ask? What has become of the Famine Relief Fund? What has become of the other funds? Cannot this Government, a huge and big Government, command funds to give relief to these distressed people in times of great need with grace? Those people who have fed the whole Province, are now suffering for rice. As my hon. friend Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu said, they are still working on the side of procurement. I am told that one officer told our Collector 'you know that your district has still to export something'. If that is a fact, I do not know where we are. How are we to live in those districts. We must all come away from those districts to districts which are declared already as deficit districts so that we may have our own rice. There is nothing for procurement in those districts. I request the Food Minister to re-form his department and to do all that is needful, and give us at least that rice which is lying there by declaring West Godavari and Krishna districts as deficit areas. Because, the report circulated here says that five lakhs and twenty-five thousand acres of paddy land, have been affected. Perhaps that is the report of the District Collector. He himself has reported that almost all the lands under paddy cultivation are affected—some portion 50 per cent, some 35 per cent and some others cent per cent. So, Sir, wherefrom are we to get rice? How can the Government procure rice hereafter from these places? What I want the Government to do is to see that whatever rice is available there, is not exported to other places. Whether there is rice or not, is a question to be considered for the future. First please see that some rice is sent there and that the poor people and every one of us are fed properly. Because, though we had with us some rice by our efforts, we sold it away as honest men at the Government rate. And these people to-day have to suffer. Some big people have got some bags of rice with them in reserve. I would not advise them to release those reserves, because they will be helpless later. The Government which ought to have taken care of these poor people from whom they have procured all the rice already, have not done so. What I would like the Government to do is to declare forthwith that our districts are deficit areas. Some quantity of rice should be sent to those places forthwith to feed the poor people.

"As far as their houses and cattle are concerned, they should be given at least Rs. 100 each. Fifty bamboo sticks are necessary to erect a roundabout hut. That means 50×1-4-0. Then there is the palmyra leaf. This report says that palmyra leaves are being supplied." May I ask, where is it supplied, Sir? Almost all trees

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have gone down. There is no single palmyra leaf. There is no palmyra tree either. Even then how long will it take to supply the palmyra leaves. How long will it take to send the palmyra leaves there and distribute them to all the places. How long are the people to be in distress, for want of these palmyra leaves and bamboo sticks. I should like to advise the Government that they should issue an ordinance as far as building materials are concerned empowering the District Collectors to seize all the building materials from the depots and distribute them to the people at the pre-cyclone price."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"If an ordinance is to be passed we must all get out; we are not to be in session. Why not pass a Bill?"

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU:—"An ordinance by the Government should be passed forthwith. I request the Government to prorogue the session. That is what I mean. I know there are legal difficulties and constitutional difficulties if an ordinance is to be passed without proroguing the session. I should prefer . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I am sure the Government can do it even by executive orders. There is no need for an ordinance."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU:—"Then we will be very glad. It is far better to supply a bamboo stick to the poor man who is distressed than our meeting and talking here, and the Government going on hearing us without caring to comply with our requests."

"Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Hon. Premier to one fact, that is, as far as West Godavari is concerned, the only officer whom we can praise with pride is one Mr. Rayappa, Revenue Divisional Officer, Narsapur. Everybody from that division tell me, and I have also enquired and verified, that he did immense service to the people in time of need and he is the only man who has saved the prestige of the Congress and the Government. To my astonishment and to the astonishment of every one in the division, we find that he is transferred. Is it a punishment all his services? What for was he transferred?"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Perhaps he is required to do some work somewhere else!"

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU:—"Is this the time to transfer him, Sir? He has to do immense work in that district. I think the Hon. Premier will consider this aspect. I invite attention of the Hon. Minister for Public Works to the Budameru and Upputeru and the Kollair lake. I am told that the experienced ryots in the district that all these floods due to the construction of the Gudivada-Bhimavaram railway line obstructs the floods from going into the sea. There are outlets arranged for taking the floods to the sea, but they are not working."

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sufficient. (An Hon. Member: Is the railway line to be dismantled.) I have been told by the old ryots of the place who have suffered by the floods that the railway line obstructs the floods from going into the sea. I should like to request the Hon. Minister for Public Works to investigate this matter and see whether anything better cannot be done for the floods to reach the sea easily without affecting the crop."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I thought the trouble was that sea water was coming in land."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU:—"As far as Narsapur taluk is concerned the tidal wave has come. We cannot do anything for it, because the tidal wave is due to the will of the Almighty. Perhaps I should mention here that all the sins of the King will transform into difficulties of the people. That is the old saying. I do not know whether the sins of the people of the districts or the sins of the Government are responsible. Is the King responsible for the distress of the people or his subjects are responsible? However, I am not concerned with this. I have seen with my eyes people groaning in distress and going about from house to house begging. Even very big families and middle class people have been greatly groaning. In Eluru proper . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I would request the hon. Member to close his speech soon."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU:—"I will conclude soon, Sir. Relief of Rs. 40,000 to our district, I am sorry to tell you, is not sufficient even for one taluk. As Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu has stated, it is humanly impossible to calculate in terms of figures the damage that was caused in our district to the crops. So, Sir, not less than Rs. 10 crores will be necessary. Where are the funds to come from? I can understand the difficulty of the Government. But that is no reason to be miserly. The Government should not be negligent. They should not be callous towards these distressed people. Let them be generous and spend as much as they can, and win the confidence of the people. Let them re-establish the prestige of our Great Rishi Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress, whom we represent here in this Province. Sir, I have already requested Government to see that at least Rs. 100 each is given to people who have been made homeless. As far as ryots who have lost their cattle and agricultural implements are concerned, the Hon. the Revenue Minister has told us that Rs. 500 interest free takkavi loans will be given. I congratulate him on this decision. I only request him to see that the amount is increased to Rs. 1,000. Rs. 500 is not at all sufficient. One pair of bullocks costs not less than Rs. 500. How can the poor ryot whose lands have been greatly affected bring them back into cultivation with Rs. 500. He requires much more for reclamation, manure and so on. Therefore it is I request that the amount should be increased to Rs. 1,000.

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“As regards land revenue remission, the Hon. the Revenue Minister has stated that he will consider the question favourably. I request him to commit himself to what extent he is going to give remissions, is it 6 annas crop, or 8 annas crop, or 10 annas or 12 annas crop? Anybody can come along with me to the villages, and I will show him and convince him how the estimates sent to Government are wrong, baseless and have been made on some wrong calculation by the karnams or the tahsildar.”

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MR. PRESIDENT :—“Has the Hon. Minister received any estimates for remission? Not yet, I think.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“The estimates will be prepared by the karnam. The karnam says that 4 annas crop is lost or 8 annas crop is lost. Then the tahsildar and . . .”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“I would like to impress upon the hon. Member that the reports will come later on and they would be considered by the Revenue Minister.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“I submit that the Hon. Minister can say one thing.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“There is a point in discussing things in their proper perspective. When the Government say that after the reports are received the full facts will be considered, why do you think that they are not going to give the full remission that is required? You are unnecessarily wasting the time of the House.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“He has no confidence in the Government, Sir.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“I humbly submit that the Government can easily say that they are prepared to give remission to a certain extent.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“How can they say now when they have no reports? Even you cannot say what is the estimate of the damage.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“They can easily say, Sir, that they are going to give 10 annas' or 8 annas' remission.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“I am sorry the hon. Member does not catch the point. Perhaps it may be that the situation requires a remission of 12 annas or 15 annas. Why should the Government grant half a rupee alone?”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“My submission is . . .”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“I would draw the hon. Member's attention to the statement made—

‘It is realized that remission on a very liberal scale will be necessary in the districts affected by the floods and cyclone. As

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soon as detailed proposals are received from the affected areas, the question of granting land revenue remission will be taken up.

That is what I said. In addition to that, I may inform the hon. Member that with regard to the suggestion made that remission should also be granted to coconut gardens and other garden crops and for lanka lands which suffered damage, even that question is being examined. That is what I said anticipating this kind of discussion."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" He does not believe the statement."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I am glad that the Revenue Minister has re-assured us that he would carefully consider the question of remissions. I hope when figures are available, they would grant remission which would go to a great extent to help the ryots in their distress.

" One more thing, Sir. We expected that the Food Commissioner of the Government of India, when he was here during the cyclone, would be advised by the Government of Madras to visit the affected areas. Certainly a word from him would have given us some relief and it is an immense surprise to us that he has not said even a word and he has gone away without even thinking of the distress of the cyclone-affected people. But when even our own Ministers would not find their way to visit these affected places, how can we expect the Food Commissioner of the Government of India to be kind enough to visit the whole area? I only want to say that even against money, a word of consolation in time of distress would go a long way in alleviating our misery. The reports published in the newspapers are not at all exaggerated. The sufferings of the people are greater than what are published in them. Perhaps they are not published due to paper scarcity and many other difficulties. So, I would like that an impartial non-official committee should be constituted to visit these districts with a view to collect statistics as to how far the crops have been damaged, how far the people have suffered and how the food position is in the districts so that the Government may act correctly and wisely in time with grace."

* DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, I had not intended to speak, but a few observations that had been made by the hon. Members compelled me to take a small portion of the time of the House. I had the opportunity almost at the conclusion of the cyclone to go to Calcutta; it was no doubt by air, but even so I could see sheets of water over tracts where green fields used to be seen and I could very well imagine the great havoc that might have been caused in those districts. This is a national disaster and we must take note of it as a 'national disaster' and not as a disaster that occurred in one particular part of the country to which other parts could be indifferent or callous. I do not think there is any Member of this House who does not realize the sufferings of the people of these districts, particularly the poorer classes and the poor middle

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class who have none to champion their cause. While I really appreciate these facts, I do feel that there should be a method by which we should approach the whole problem; otherwise, it will really be that those who shout best will get the best of it and those who have no opportunity to express their views or make proper representations will suffer as they always did.

“ Taking the damage that has been caused by this storm, I should like to state first of all the damage to life, and unfortunately we could do nothing in the matter beyond saying that their souls must rest in peace. But there may be occasional cases where the only earning member who could support the family has lost his life. I should like such particular instances to be investigated, not from the point of view of a large concourse of people, but individual considerations should be given to some of the hardest cases which to my knowledge have occurred in the different districts.

“ The loss of cattle has been enormous. We know particularly in an agrarian country so much accustomed to agricultural labour what this loss of cattle means. We have had several instances where houses have collapsed in cities and mud walls,—the so-called houses—in the rural areas. Crops have been damaged; breaches of tanks have occurred; communications have been very severely uprooted; all these are facts. But I say the problem requires to be considered from two aspects of view, the immediate aspect and the somewhat remote aspect. Even the immediate aspect can be classified as the more urgent and the less urgent. Among the more urgent problems, I would first of all put the question of food supply. There is no question whatsoever that this problem exists. At present owing to various causes, either because the surplus districts have become more or less deficit districts or because even in those districts where some amount of good material was available, materials of transport have been seriously curtailed, there is undoubtedly the problem of food supply. That is a matter on which immediate and co-ordinated action is necessary by all the departments concerned. The Food Department should take steps for the procurement of supplies and the Transport Department for the transport of food. I am surprised that in a matter like this the Central Government should not have come to the assistance of the Provincial Government and made enquiries as to the extent of help they could possibly render, when damage on such a large scale has occurred.

“ The next thing is of course the question of providing clothes. Every man requires food and shelter. If it were any other country, I would have said that he requires cloth. But unfortunately in this country even the clothes have sometimes to be dispensed with and people just confine themselves to the very rudimentary necessities for covering Nature's garb. That apart, in regard to houses also immediate shelter ought to be found to those people who unfortunately have got to wander in the sun with no shirt to cover them. These are the immediate problems and there can be no two opinions about them.

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"The less urgent problems are those to which several hon. Members have referred—the question of damages to crops. This, I feel, is a matter that ought to be thoroughly investigated, and not only remission should be granted but also such methods as are calculated to bring crop production at the earliest possible stage should be taken up. This must be the concern of the Food Ministry both in the Centre and in the Provinces. The Revenue Minister may be able to grant remissions. I would take it that the remissions are granted at 12 annas, or whatever may be the rate,—I hope will be on some scientific basis and not exactly depending upon the volume of opinion pointedly expressed to the Ministers while they go on tour. While such opinion may be taken into consideration, I do feel that there is a necessity for issuing a warning that the Ministers ought to take scientific note of the various shades of crop damages that have occurred and give due and necessary remission on a particular scientific basis. Otherwise, once again the charge will be levelled against the Government that they have favoured this or that influential person.

"In the last two days when I was listening during question time, I must confess to a feeling of utmost humiliation that many questions, many supplementary questions, have been asked in this House which go, in my opinion, to seriously damage the reputation of the Government. The Members ask questions not, in my opinion at any rate, giving sufficient guarantee for the accuracy of the questions put. That apart, the reason why I say this is that it must not be a question of non-official members gathering together and giving their views. Of course for the time being I am a non-official Member of the House. But the departments concerned should make a detailed study and in these things energetic steps should be taken.

"While I, therefore, feel that these measures ought to be adopted immediately for promoting ameliorative measures, I still think that the chief problem that faces us has not been faced by this House—I will not say about the other House. Is the present cyclone about which we are discussing the first of its kind? During the last 25 years, at least half a dozen cyclones of a virulent nature have occurred; this may be the worst, I concede. I remember well in 1928 I was travelling by the Calcutta Mail and it took 24 hours for me to go to Nellore. And what did I find? Nellore was naked to the bones. Similarly a cyclonic storm took place in South Arcot, round about Tiruchirappalli and in Tirunelveli also. This is becoming more or less a chronic occurrence. What is it that we are going to do? If this disaster does not enable us to think of a more substantial method of giving relief and of being prepared for such havocs, then we would not have learnt a lesson we ought to, from these acts of God. Therefore, I come from the urgent steps to the somewhat remote steps. I do want that the Government should now, on the basis of the havoc that has been caused, think of permanent measures for alleviating similar situations wherever they may occur, in whatever part of the Presidency. I do not suppose that scientific research has yet come to the position when we can anticipate cyclonic disasters long

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before they occur. Therefore, we ought to take note of this particular situation and prepare ourselves, and my advice is that there should be an Expert Committee formed to consider ways and means by which immediate relief can be given wherever flood, famine, pestilence or other havoc is caused.

“ I am glad that my hon. Friend Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu, has given in his amendment some useful suggestions—the question of insurance of food-crops, the question of providing for the construction of houses on a co-operative basis, the question of building up a fund for famine relief, etc. I believe I am correct when I say that there is already a fund, but it is not commensurate with the needs of the disasters that we met with in recent years. That fund ought to be augmented every year by placing half to one crore of rupees so that we may ultimately have a fund of ten crores of rupees or thereabouts and from that fund relief could be given in such circumstances. While the poor man should be given every assistance, the middle class and the rich men should be given such loans as would be commensurate with the amount of damage that has been caused so that they may rehabilitate themselves.

“ The most important thing is that the food production ought not to be decreased by any chance. While on this subject, I would like to suggest that it will be necessary for the Co-operative Department, Agricultural Department, Revenue Department, Food Department and Public Works Department to consult together and see in what manner they can prepare themselves to meet the situation when such emergencies arise. I am not sure that this is the only occasion when flood havoc has occurred. There can be no doubt that these havocs will repeat themselves. Therefore, my plea with the Government is that they must consider this ‘ act of God ’ as a sort of pointer to the duties that they owe to the public at large, and when I say ‘ the public at large ’, I do not forget that this Legislature has taken the place of the King and that it is part of the Government themselves, and although the Members who belong to the Government party may forget themselves of that factor, I am not prepared to forget it and that this is an act of God on account of the sins committed by the King. I may tell my friend Mr. Govindacharyulu that he is one of the Kings who are responsible. I must, therefore, plead greatly with the Government to appoint immediately an Expert Committee to go into this whole question and as a long-range policy to suggest what measures are necessary to meet the situation.”

5 p.m.

* **SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM** :—“ అధ్యక్ష, ఇటీవల తటస్థించిన తుపాన విభత్సంవల్ల క్రుంగిపోయిన జిల్లాలలో నేను ప్రతినిధిగా వచ్చిన తూర్పు గోదావరి జిల్లాకూడ ఒకటైయున్నది. వివిధ జిల్లాలలో ఎంతెంత నష్టం వాటిల్లినదో తెలియజేసే నిమిత్తం ప్రభుత్వంవారు ఈ తానన సభా సభ్యులకు ఇచ్చిన స్టేటుమెంటును గూర్చి కొన్ని సందేహములు ఉన్నవి. వాటిని మంత్రిగారికి తెలియజేస్తాను. వారు సమాధానము లిచ్చిన తరువాత మా జిల్లాలోని పరిస్థితులను గూర్చి మనవి చేసు కొంటాను. ప్రభుత్వంవారు ఇచ్చిన స్టేటుమెంటులో రాజోలు, కాకినాడ, పెద్దా

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పురము, రామచంద్రాపురము, రాజమహేంద్రవరము, తుని, కొత్తపేట తాలూకాలో జరిగిన నష్టం గురించిన వివరములు మాత్రమే ఉన్నవి. కాని ఇతర తాలూకాలో జరిగిన నష్టముయొక్క వివరములు తెలియజేయబడియుండలేదు. ఇందుకలన ఆ తాలూకాలో విమాతము నష్టము జరుగలేదనియో, లేక ఆ తాలూకా అధికారులనుంచి సంజాయిషీ రాకనా అనే విషయములగురించి ప్రభుత్వ అధికారము తెలియజేయ గోరుతాను.”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“నష్టముయొక్క వివరములు తెలియకనే.”

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—“అన్యథా, ఇటీవల గత మాసములో సంభవించిన తుపాను బీభత్సవల్ల నష్టపోయిన జిల్లాలలో మా తూర్పు గోదావరి జిల్లా కూడ ఒకటని మీకు నేను చెప్పనక్కరలేదు. గత 10 సంవత్సరములలో మా జిల్లాలో 3 వర్షాయములు తుపాను వచ్చినది. కాని ఆ తుపాను లేవియు జిల్లాలోని ప్రజలకు ఈ తుపానువల్ల కలిగినంత నష్టమును కలిగించలేదు. 60 సంవత్సరముల ఈ లోపల ఇంత భద్రతముతో ఇంత పెద్ద తుపాను రాలేదని చాలా వయసువచ్చినవారు చెప్పుచున్నారు. ఈ తుపాను బీభత్సవల్ల విశాఖపట్నం, ఉభయ గోదావరి, కృష్ణా, గుంటూరు, నెల్లూరు జిల్లాలు మాత్రమే కాకుండ ఇతర జిల్లాలలోకూడ కొంత నష్టము కలిగిన మాట యిదార్థము. ఈ కోస్తా జిల్లాలలో ఈ తుపానుతోపాటు సముద్ర ప్రాంతములో పెద్ద ఉప్పనీటి కేటకము రమారమి అయిదు మైళ్లవరకు వచ్చి కొన్ని గ్రామములలోను పంటలను, పూరి యిళ్లను యావత్తునుకూడ పూర్తిగా నాశనం చేసిన విషయం ప్రభుత్వంవారికి తెలిసినదే. అయితే ఈ సందర్భంలో ఒక విషయంకొన్ని తూర్పు గోదావరి జిల్లాను గురించి చెప్పవలసియున్నది. మనము జమీందారీ రద్దు విషయంలో పితాపురం సంస్థానాన్ని రద్దు చేసినామేకాని తూర్పు గోదావరి జిల్లాలోని పితాపురము తాలూకాను మనము లిసివేయలేదు. ఆ తాలూకా ఇప్పటికీ ఒక్కడనే యున్నది. అక్కడి ప్రజలు మన మద్రాసు ప్రభుత్వమునకే పన్నులు చెల్లించుచున్నారు. అక్కడ జిల్లాలోనున్న అధికారులు అవతలయున్న తుని తాలూకాలోను, ఇవతలయున్న కాకినాడ, రామచంద్రాపురం తాలూకాలోను జరిగిన నష్టంగురించి తెలియజేసినారు. కాని నీటి మధ్య ఉన్న పితాపురము తాలూకాలో ఎంత నష్టము సంభవించినది ఇంతవరకు తెలియజేయబడలేదు. ఈ విషయమై జిల్లాలోని అధికారులు ప్రభుత్వంవారుకూడ సంజాయిషీ ఇవ్వవలసియున్నది. ప్రజలకు ఆపార నష్టము సంభవించి అనేక వేల ఎకరములలోని పంట సర్వ నాశనమైపోయి వేలాది బీద ప్రజల పూరి ఇళ్లు పడిపోయి ప్రజలు అల్లాడి పోతుంటే ఎంతెంత నష్టం కలిగిందో ప్రజల ఆగసాళ్లే మా ప్రభుత్వానికే తెలియజేయని ఉద్యోగస్థులు ప్రజా ప్రభుత్వం తరఫున పనిచేసిన సాగిస్తున్నారుంటే చాల విచారించ వలసిన విషయం. ఇట్టి అధికారుల చేతులలో ప్రజలకు ఎట్టి సదుపాయాలు సౌకర్యాలు సక్రమంగా సవ్యంగా జరుగుతాయి అనేటటువంటిది మనము ఆలోచించవలసియున్నది. ప్రభుత్వంవారు ప్రజలకు సహాయపడుతామని ఇచ్చిన హామీని ఈ ఉద్యోగస్థులు ఎంత సానుభూతితో నిర్వహిస్తారో తమ విధిని ఎంత సక్రమంగా నిర్వహిస్తారో మనము ఆలోచించుకొనవలసియున్నది. ఏమైనప్పటికీ ప్రభుత్వంవారు వారి అధికారులు శ్రద్ధ వహిస్తారని అమితంగా నష్టపడిన రైతాంగానికి అండగా నిలుస్తారని ఆశిస్తున్నాను.

“ఈ సందర్భములో నా స్వానుభవాన్ని పురస్కరించుకొని జిల్లాలోని వివిధ ప్రాంతాలలో కలిసి కష్ట సమస్యలను గురించి చూచి చేస్తాను. మా జిల్లాలోని కోస్తానీచ ప్రాంతంలో కొబ్బరి తోటలు విస్తారంగా వున్నవి. ఈ తుపాను గాలివల్ల తోటలలో

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నూటికి 25 చెట్లకు పైగా పూర్తిగా నాశనం అయిపోయినవి. ఈ విధంగా కలిగిన నష్టం అంచనా వేయాలంటే చాలాకష్టం. సాధారణంగా ఒక ఎకరానికి 50 కొబ్బరి చెట్లు వుంటాయి. వీటిలో 8 నుంచి 12 చెట్లవరకుకూడ పడిపోయిన తోటలు అనేకమున్నవి. సాధారణంగా చెట్లకు అధమం వంద కాయలు చూచుకొన్నట్టుటికి ఎకరానికి 8 వందల కాయల చొప్పున నష్టం కనిపించుచున్నది. ఈ నాడు నూరు కొబ్బరికాయల ధర రూ 15 లు వున్నది. అనగా ఒక్కొక్క ఎకరమునకు సంవత్సరమునకు రూ 120 లు దండగ సంభవించినదన్నమాట. ఈ దండగ ఈ ఒక సంవత్సరమునకు మాత్రమేగాదు. కొబ్బరిచెట్టు పెరిగి కాయలు కాచుటకు పది వందలదాని సంవత్సరములు పట్టును. అనగా ఈ పది వందలదాని సంవత్సరముల కాలము లాను కొబ్బరి తోటల రైతులకు ఎకరమునకు 12 నుంచి 15 వందల వరకు నష్టము సంభవించినది. ఈ ప్రకారము అంచనా వేసి చూచినట్లయితే మా జిల్లాలో జరిగిన నష్టం లక్షలలో కాదు, కొన్ని కోట్ల వరకుకూడ పెరుగగలదు. విప్రభత్యము అయినప్పటికి కంత నష్టాన్ని చింతిస్తే రైతులు పూర్తిగా వుద్ధరించలేదు. ఇందుకు వివిధమైన సావకాశం కూడ వుండదు. కాని రైతు దేశానికి జీవకర, ప్రభుత్వానికి జీవకర, రాష్ట్రానికి జీవకర. అటువంటి రైతు ఈ రోజున మా జిల్లాలో నిరాధారుడై నిరాహార్యుడై దిగులుగ వివిధమైన ఆదరణలకే చిన్న రైతునుంచి పెద్ద రైతు లాగాయితు ప్రభుత్వ సహాయానికై ఎదురు చూస్తున్నారు. ఇట్టి తరుణంలో చిన్న రైతుకు చేయవలసిన సహాయం చిన్న రైతుకు, పెద్ద రైతుకు కావలసిన సహాయం పెద్ద రైతుకు చేసి ప్రజాధారణ ప్రజావాదము పొందడం ప్రభుత్వంవారి విద్యుక్త ధర్మం. దేశానికి వెన్నెముక అయిన రైతుకు వెన్నె విరిగి కూలిపోతూనికి సిద్ధంగా ఉన్న సమయంలో ఆలస్యంచేయక, ఆతనిని ఆదరిస్తేనే దేశము ప్రజా శుభిష్టంగా, క్షేమంగా వుండటానికి అవకాశం వుంటుంది. అటువంటి ప్రభుత్వాన్ని యధార్థమైన ప్రజా ప్రభుత్వం అనటానికి ఎవ్వరు సందేహించరు.

“ఈ తుపానువల్ల మా కోస్తా జిల్లాలో ముఖ్యమైన ప్రథమ వరిపంట ఎంత దెబ్బతినినదో మిత్రులు నారాయణస్వామి నాయుడుగారు వారి ఉపన్యాసంలో తెలియజేసియున్నారు. వరిచేను రెండు రోజులు నీటిలో మునిగియుంటే ఎంత కష్టం కలుగుతుందో స్వానుభవము ఉన్న రైతుకు తెలుస్తుంది. వరిగింజ రెండు రోజులు నీళ్లలో ఉన్నట్లయితే ముక్క వస్తుంది. గడ్డి కల్గిపోతుంది. ఇప్పుడు ప్రథమపంట ముఖ్యముగా, బసంగి కంటే ఆసాధారణమైన ఆపారమైన దెబ్బతిన్నది. అనేక ప్రాంతాలలో కోసియున్న కోతకు సిద్ధమైయున్న బసంగి చేలు 7, 8 రోజుల వరకు నీటిలో మునిగిపోయి యుండవలసి వచ్చినది. మంచి కంటే పండవలసిన పాలము లలోకూడ ఇప్పుడు కూలివరకైనను ధాన్యము వచ్చుననే ఆశకూడలేదు. కొన్ని కోసియున్న చేలలోని సస్యము ప్రవాహంలో కొట్టుకొనిపోయి విడిపాలైంది. ఆఖరకు పశువులకుకూడ గడ్డిలేనిస్థితి ఈ నాడు అనేక గ్రామాలలో విర్రుడినది. నేను చెప్పే విషయాలలోని నిజా నిజములను మా జిల్లాలో మిత్రులు సంచారము చేసి నట్లయితే వారే తెలిసికొనగలరు. అంతేకాక మిత్రులు గోవిందాచార్యులు గారు చెప్పినట్లు గౌరవనీయులగు మిత్రులు కాఫీ పెంటలన్న తెరచుటకు, సినిమా భవన నిర్మాణాలకు శంఖుస్థాపన చేయుటకు వెళ్లటకు బదులు వారు తుపాను విభత్సంవల్ల ఆక్రందిస్తున్న ప్రజానీకాన్ని చూచుటకు ఆయా జిల్లాలకు పోయి ప్రజలకు ధైర్యం చెప్పే పూనుకోవడం అత్యంత అవసరమని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను.

“ఈ నాడు పంట పాడైపోయి ముందుగలి ఏమీ ఆని ఆచిస్తున్న రైతును నిలబెట్టటానికి ప్రభుత్వంలోని అన్ని శాఖలవారును కృషి నిశ్చయంతో పనిచేయాలి.

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ముఖ్యంగా వ్యవసాయ డిపార్టుమెంటువారు వ్యవసాయదారు వెంటనే వ్యవసాయము కొనసాగించుకోవటానికి వీలైన అవకాశాలని కలుగజేయాలి. రెండవ పంట పండించు కోటానికి కావలసిన విత్తనాలను మిగులు జిల్లా లనుండి గాని, ఇతర రాష్ట్రాలనుండి గాని అవసరమైతే తాత్కాలికంగా ఈ డిపార్టుమెంటు మాసలూనే డిపార్టుమెంటుకి పనికివచ్చే చిన్న పంట విత్తనాలను తెప్పించి రైతుకు సృష్టించేయవలసి యుండుంది. విత్తనాలే కాకుండా మంచినీరు పండుటకు ముఖ్యవసరమైన ఎరువులనుకూడ వ్యవసాయ డిపార్టుమెంటువారు సప్లయ్ చేయవలసి యుండుంది. అంతేకాకుండా వ్యవసాయదారులకు అత్యవసరమైనటువంటి వ్యవసాయ పనిముట్లనుకూడా సరఫరా చేయించవలయును. ఇటువంటి సదుపాయముల సన్నిధిని వెంటనే చేయకపోయినట్లయితే వచ్చే సంవత్సరంలో మనమందరము మహా వికరీతమైన కాటకాన్ని ఎదుర్కొనవలసి ఎదురందనటానికి ఎంతమాత్రము సందేహములేదు. ఈతరుణం మనకు అందరకు కలిగి సమయం తుపానువల్ల నష్టపడిన రైతులకు సకాలంలో వడ్డీలేని పద్ధతిమీద అప్పులనిచ్చి, ధనసహాయముచేసి, ఇతర అవసర వస్తువులను supply చేసి, రైతులు తిరిగి వెంటనే వ్యవసాయం చేసుకొనుటకు ప్రోత్సహాన్ని కలుగ చేయవలసినదని ప్రభుత్వమువారిని కోరుచున్నాను.

“ప్రభుత్వమువారు రైతుకు ఏ విధంగా సహాయపడాలో అనే విషయమై నేను కొన్ని సలహాలను చేయదలచినాను. ఇప్పుడు రెవిన్యూ అప్పులను భూములన్నవారికే ఇవ్వవలె ననెట్టువంటి నిబంధన ఉన్నది. ఇటువంటి పరతు ఉండుటచేత స్వంత భూమి ఉన్నవారికేగాని స్వంతభూమి లేకుండా, కాలుకు భూమిని నేద్యము చేసుకొనెట్టువంటివారికి ఋణములను ఇచ్చే అవకాశములేదు. ముఖ్యంగా స్వంతభూమి లేకుండా, ఇతరుల భూములను నేద్యముచేసుకొంటున్న రైతులు చాలా బీదవారు. వారు ఈ సంవత్సరం కాలుకు చేసుకొనుచున్న భూములను వ్యవసాయము చేసుకొనుటకు ఆహ్వానం, సహా చేసుకొని కొంతపెట్టుబడి పెట్టి భూములను సాగుచేసినారు. కాని ఈ తుపానువల్ల వారి కృషి అంతయు నిష్ఫలమై పోయినది. తిరిగి వారు వ్యవసాయము చేసుకొనవలసిన పే పెట్టుబడికిగాను కొంత డబ్బు కావలసినవస్తుంది. వారు ఇదివరకే అప్పులొబడి, దానిని తీర్చుకొనుటకు అవకాశము లేకుండా ఉన్నారు. అటువంటివారు తిరిగి ఇప్పుడు ఇతరులవద్దనుంచి అప్పు తెచ్చుకోవడం కష్టము. వారికి అప్పు పుట్టడంకూడా చాలా కష్టము. ఇటువంటి పేదరైతులకు అప్పు ఇవ్వడం చాలా అవసరము, లేనిచో వారు రెండవ పంట పండించుకోలేరు. కాబట్టి ఇటువంటి వికరీత పరిస్థితులలో భూమిలేని రైతులకుకూడా పెర్సనల్ హామీమీద, తక్కువ అప్పులు ఉచ్చుటకు వున్న ఆర్డంకుల సన్నిధిని తొలగించవలసినదని ప్రభుత్వమువారిని కోరుచున్నాను.

“మాజిల్లాలో సముద్రప్రాంతములో ఉన్నటువంటి అమలాపురం, రాజోలు, కాకినాడ తాలూకాలలోని సముద్రతీర ప్రదేశములు ఉప్పునీటి కెరటమువలన తీరమునుంచి అయిదు మైళ్లవరకుఉన్న భూములన్నియు మునిగిపోయినవి. భూములలో ఉప్పునీరు నీలవడం ఉండుటవలన ఆవస్థ యు చాడువేసిపోయినవి. ఈచాడు పోలేనేకాని ఈ భూములలో తిరిగి ఏ వైరులవైనను నేద్యము చేయలేము. ముఖ్యంగా వచ్చే రెండో పంట పండించడం సాధ్యంకాదు. కాబట్టి ఈ చాడును కడిగివేయటముగాను ఈ భూములకు వెంటనే తీసిగీటిని ఇప్పించాలి. ఇది అత్యంత అవసరము, లేనిచో అనేక వేల ఎకరాల భూమి పాడైపోతుంది. ఈ ఆహార కొరత విర్బడిన రోజులలో అనేక వేల టన్నుల బియ్యము ప్రజలకు దొరకకుండాపోతుంది. కాబట్టి యీ విషయాన్ని ప్రభుత్వమువారు శ్రద్ధగా ఆలోచించి వెంటనే ఈ భూములకు తీసిగీటిని ఇప్పించవలసినదని

[Sri T. Purushotham] [15th November 1949]

మరల ఇంకొక సారి ప్రభుత్వంవారికి చునవిచేస్తున్నాను ఇంతేకాకుండా ఈ సముద్ర తీరప్రాంతములలో చేపలుపట్టుకొని జీవింపేటటువంటి పల్లెవాళ్లకు చాలానష్టం సంభవించినది. వాళ్లు ఇండ్లు, పడవలు, వలలు మొదలైనవి సముద్రము పొంగుటవలన కొట్టుకొని పోయినవి. అనేకమంది పల్లెవాళ్లు ప్రాణాన్ని రక్షించుకోవడానికి చెట్టుకొకడు, పుట్టుకొకడుగా పరుగెత్తుకొని పోవలసిన స్థితి వచ్చినది. వారిలో కొంతమంది ఇంతవరకు కూడా కనిపించుటలేదు. ఎంతమంది చనిపోయినారో కూడా తెలుసుకోవడం కష్టంగా ఉన్నది. ఈ పల్లెవాళ్లకు ఉండటానికి గుడిసెగాని, ఈ చలికాలంలో కప్పుకోడానికి గుడ్డగాని, తినడానికి ఆన్నముకాని, ఇంకా ఏ ఇతర సామానులుకాని లేకుండా పోయినవి. ముఖ్యంగా వారి జీవనాధారమైనటువంటి పడవలు, తెడ్లు, వలలు పోయినవి. వారు మరల యథాప్రకారంగా చేపలు పట్టుకొని జీవించటానికిగాను ప్రభుత్వంవారు వారికి వెంటనే వలలు అల్లుకోటానికి నూలు, పడవలు కట్టుకోడానికి, కలప వారికి ఇప్పించడం అత్యవసరం. కాబట్టి ఈ విషయాన్ని కూడా ప్రభుత్వంవారు దయతో ఆలోచించవలసినదిగా కోరుచున్నాను.

“అంతేకాకుండా సముద్రతీరానికి దూరంగా ఉన్నటువంటి ప్రదేశములలో నదుల వరదలవల్ల తుపానువల్ల భూములన్నియు పూర్తిగా మునిగిపోయినవి. ముఖ్యంగా బసంగి పంటచేలు చాలా దెబ్బతిన్నవి. చేలు చాలారోజులవరకు నీటిలో ఉండుట వలన గింజలు పాడైపోయినవి. గడ్డి కుళ్లిపోయినది. అంతేకాకుండా ఇతర పెద్ద పంట వరిచేలుకూడా వర్షమువలన, గాలివలన గడ్డి దెబ్బ తిన్నవి పున్నాసరంరాలి పోయినది. వరిచెలలో పొల్లే హెచ్చుగా ఉంటుంది. చేలు కోసి కూర్చినట్లే ఇది వరకు ఎకరానికి 20 బస్తాలు ఆయే భూములలో ఇప్పుడు రెండు బస్తాలుకూడా పండవు.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ మీ సూచనలను చెప్పండి ”

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—“ ముఖ్యంగా ప్రభుత్వంవారు డెల్టా ప్రాంతాలలో విశేషంగా నష్టపడినటువంటి రైతులు ఈ సంవత్సరం రెండో పంట పండించటానికి సీరు ఇప్పించాలను. ఈ విషయాన్ని గౌరవనీయులగు రెవెన్యూ శాఖా మాత్యులు శ్రీ సీలారామ రెడ్డిగారితో మనవి చేసినాను. ఈ విషయాన్ని వారు గౌ. భక్తవత్సలం గారుకూడా పరిశీలించవలసినదిగా కోరుచున్నాను. రెండవ పంటకు నీటిని supply చేసే విషయంలో ఇప్పుడు zonal system అనే విభాగము అమలులో ఉన్నది. దీనినిబట్టి ఒక్కొక్క గ్రామములో కొంతభాగమునకు మాత్రమే రెండవ పంటకు సీరు ఇస్తున్నారు. ఈ rotational crop system వలన ఒక సంవత్సరం కొంత భూమిలోను మరొక సంవత్సరం మరొక కొంత భాగంలోను రెండవ పంట పండిస్తున్నారు. అంతేకాకుండా మా తాలూకాలలో కొన్ని excluded area లు కూడా ఉన్నవి. ఇటువంటి భూములకు రెండవ పంట పండించుకొనుటకు సీరు ఇవ్వరు. ఈ భూములు zonal system లో నుంచి మినహాయించబడినవి. కాబట్టి జిల్లాలలో ఉండే Executive Engineer లు, జిల్లా కలెక్టర్లు zonal system మీదే ఆధారపడక ఎంత ఎక్కువ భూమిలో రెండో పంట పండించుటకు వీలు కలుగుతుందో అంత భూమిలోను పైరులను సాగు చేయుటకు వీలు కలుగజేయనట్లుగా ఉత్తరువులు జారీచేయించగోర్తాను. తాత్కాలికంగా zonal system నుకూడా suspend చేయవలసినదిగా రెవెన్యూ శాఖా మాత్యులకు మనవి చేస్తున్నాను.

“ ఈ సంవత్సరం పంటలు పూర్తిగాపోయిన కారణంచేత, పెద్ద రైతులు, చిన్న రైతులు వారికి ఉన్న ఆస్తులను తీర్చలేరు. కాబట్టి రైతులు భూమి తనఖా బాంకుకు, ఇతర సంస్థలకు ఇవ్వవలసిన ఆస్తులయొక్క ఈ సంవత్సరపు instalment లు చెల్లించ

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వలసిన కాలము పొడగించేట్లు చేయడం అత్యవసరం. అందుకుగాను గవర్నమెంటు వారు మారిటోరియమ్ ఇప్పించి గోర్తాను. ఈ విషయాన్ని పరిశీలన చేయించి తగిన ఉత్తరువులు వెంటనే జారీ చేయించవలసినదిగా సహకారశాఖా మాత్యులగు గౌ. చంద్రమౌళిగారిని నేను కోరుచున్నాను.

“ఈ సందర్భంలో ఒక్క ముఖ్యమైన విషయాన్ని మనవిచేస్తాను. తుపాను సంభవించిన తరువాత మా జిల్లాలలో ఆపారమైన నష్టము సంభవించినదని ప్రతికలలో ప్రకటించిన వార్తలు exaggerate చేయబడినవని ప్రధాన మంత్రిగారు నెలవెచ్చినట్లు ప్రతికలలో చూచినాము. ఇది చాలా విచారించవలసినటువంటి విషయము. ఇది వరికు పరాయి ప్రభుత్వం ఉన్నప్పుడు ప్రజాపరిధిగాకు విమి సమాధానం సంజాయిషీ చెప్పవలసి ఉంటుందో అనే భయంతో వారు ప్రజాభిప్రాయానికి ప్రతికాభిప్రాయానికి తలవొగ్గుతూ ఉండేవారు. కాని ప్రజాప్రభుత్వం వచ్చిన తరువాత ఈ భయం పూర్తిగా తొలగిపోయినట్లున్నది. ఈ ప్రభుత్వంవారికి తమ ఉద్యోగస్థుల రిపోర్టులే కాని ఇతర non-officials యొక్క సలహాలు ఎంతమాత్రము చెవికెక్కవు. ఉద్యోగస్థులు చెప్పినదానిపైననే వారికి నమ్మకము. ఇవివరలో పరాయి ప్రభుత్వము ఉన్నప్పుడు మనమందరము ఆ ప్రభుత్వము ప్రజాభిప్రాయానికి విలస ఇవ్వటంలేదని వారి ఉద్యోగస్థులు ప్రజల ఎడల నిర్దాక్షిణ్యంగా ఉన్నారని వాని విమర్శించాము. ఇట్టి విమర్శకు ఈనాడు అవకాశం లేకుండాపోయింది. ఈనాడు జిల్లాలలో ఉన్న ఉద్యోగస్థులు పాత పద్ధతులనే ఆవలంబించుచున్నారు. 150 సంవత్సరముల కాలము నుంచి వారు ఈ పరిపాలనా విధానానికి ఆలవాటైపోయినారు. ఒక్కసారిగా వారిలో మార్పురావడం సాధ్యంగాదు. కాబట్టి ప్రజాభిప్రాయానికి కూడ మన ప్రభుత్వంవారు విలస ఇవ్వడం అత్యవసరం.

“ముఖ్యంగా రెండవ పంట పండించుటకు నీరు కప్పించడం, రైతుకు వ్యవసాయం చేసేకొనుటకు కావసిన ఇతర సౌకర్యములను కలుగచేయడం వెంటనే ప్రభుత్వంవారు చర్య తీసుకొనవలయును.

“ఈనాడు వ్యవసాయ కూలీల పరిస్థితి చాల అధ్వాన్నముగ నున్నది. తినుటకు తిండిలేక వారు మలమల మాడిపోతున్నారు. ఈ చరిత్రలలో ఒంటిని కప్పకోటానికి అవసరమైన గడ్డ లభ్యం కావటం లేదు. కాబట్టి వారందరికీ రేషన్లు, బట్టలు ఉచితంగానైనా లేక సరిసమైన ధరలకైనా ఇప్పించే ఏర్పాట్లు చేయించగోరుతాను. అవసరమైతట్లయితే ఈ ఖర్చులను చేయవలసినదిగాను రెండు మూడు కోట్ల రూపాయలను రెవెన్యూ రిజర్వు ఫండులోనుంచి అయినను తీసి వెచ్చించుటకు ప్రభుత్వం వెనుక ముందాడవలసిన అవసరంలేదు. ఈ విషయమై సంచేపించుకర్త Finance Minister గారిని కోరుచున్నాను. ఈ రెవెన్యూ రిజర్వు ఫండు అసాధారణ ప్రమాదములు సంభవించినప్పుడు ప్రజానీకాన్ని కాపాడటానికై ఉపయోగించడంలో విమోచన తప్పలేదు. ఇటువంటి పరిస్థితులలో వెచ్చించుటకే ఇటువంటి నిధులు ఏర్పాటు చేయబడినవి. అవసరమైతట్లయితే ఆ డబ్బులోనుంచి రెండు, మూడు కోట్ల రూపాయలనైనా తీసి ఖర్చు పెట్టవలసిందని కోరుతూ నెలపు తీసుకొంటున్నాను.”

* SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ Mr. President, Sir, coming as I do from the Cuddapah district, which is one of the districts affected by the recent cyclone, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the hon. Members of this House who have profusely expressed their sympathy. But, at the same time, I would like to mention that this sympathy should be translated into action. It is no doubt true that Members of this House in the Opposition

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might disassociate themselves from this in the sense that they have nothing to do and it is the duty of the Government. But, as this is a national calamity—as the hon. Members have themselves said, people need not divide themselves as belonging to one part which has not suffered by this calamity and another part which has suffered by this calamity, and no distinction of caste or creed ought to be made. I am really grateful for the noble sentiments that have been expressed by the hon. Members. Then, Sir, I would like to impress upon the House that it is not only in a national calamity like this that no distinction ought to be made, but even in normal occasions these distinctions ought to be abolished. While, I say this, I would like to emphasise that the whole of the Presidency is not the same so far as material prosperity is concerned. There are poor tracts, there are backward tracts and there are rich tracts.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ May I request the hon. Member to confine his remarks to the damage caused by cyclone and suggestions to the Government how to improve the conditions. All these points are no doubt important and may be good and relevant to other occasions rather than the present one, discussion of cyclone. I would very much like the hon. Member to confine his remarks to the damage caused in Cuddapah and suggestions to the Government how to alleviate them.”

* SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ Sir, I say that these points have a bearing on the present discussion. For instance, the communications had been disrupted in the Cuddapah district. It takes a long time to repair this damage. I know the Government are going to impose certain conditions on the Cuddapah District Board or the local bodies. I say that the people of the district are poor and they cannot bear any huge expenditure. I lay emphasis on this aspect and want the Government to take up the work entirely by themselves and repair the damages whatever may be cost. It is in this light I wanted to say that no distinction ought to be made with regard to normal times also and urgent measures are to be taken up for the welfare of the people. I submit, Sir, that a note has been prepared by the Government for the information of the Members which lays special stress on the fact that some damage has been caused to some of the roads. As far as the roads are concerned, the Development Commissioner for Rayalaseema who has been appointed by the Government has prepared a report. In this report, it is stated that it is difficult to construct good roads in Cuddapah and to maintain the same. The Pennar Causeway has been damaged to a great extent beyond all repair and any repair that is contemplated by the Government would only be a patchwork. The Divisional Engineer also has visited the place. Subsequently on account of the cyclone this causeway has been damaged further and it is irreparable. I say that this is the proper time to completely replace this causeway by a permanent bridge. I have been suggesting this and the Collector has been suggesting this and the people have also been suggesting this. But somehow, the present Government as well as the previous

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Government have turned a deaf ear to this suggestion and have not undertaken the work of constructing a bridge over the Pennar river. I submit that whatever money that is spent at present over the repair of the Pennar Causeway will be useless. There is some scheme which says that the bridge will be constructed somewhere between 1951 and 1956. But this does not prevent the Government from advancing the scheme and taking up this work immediately. This is the proper time and I request the Government to take up this scheme immediately and construct the bridge.

“ So far as the roads are concerned, I may submit that the roads that are passing through the Cuddapah district are few and far between. As I have already said, it is difficult to make good roads in the black cotton soil and to maintain them. There are very few good roads in the Cuddapah and Kurnool districts. Recently, I was travelling in a car in the trunk road in the Cuddapah district. The road was in such a damaged condition that my car was very badly hit and I could not proceed further. I am mentioning this only for the purpose of showing that even the road that is called trunk road is in such a bad condition and want to urge that the roads in the district are not at all motorable. Therefore I request the Government to take up this work immediately and see that the roads are put in a proper condition, whatever be the amount that is necessary for this purpose.

“ With regard to irrigation channels, no doubt the Government have done something and I am really grateful to the Government. On another occasion in the Provincial Food Advisory Committee, I made a remark that the Government were very slow in tackling this question. I would like to express my apology for making that remark. No doubt, it is true that the Government have done something to which I am really grateful. But there are many more things that ought to be done. For instance, take the case of the Gurrampad Channel. People dependent on this channel cultivated their lands and expected that the crops might grow well and they would have a good harvest. Subsequently, on account of breaches, the crops withered and the thing that the people hoped did not come to fruition. I request the Hon. Minister for Public Works to see that the damage caused to this channel is repaired immediately whatever might be the cost. I completely associate myself with the suggestions made by my friend Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu and would say that the peasants have been suffering very much and the Government ought to do whatever lies in their power to help these poor peasants.”

* SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I rise to observe that this is a national calamity which calls for immediate action and if neglected it may lead to a national crisis in the matter of food as the area affected is a food growing one and it is twice hit by cyclones. There are people who have lost their all, food-stuffs, cattle and crops. There are villages which were most unexpectedly flooded by rivers like Krishna, Tungabhadra, Elleru, Kunderu, Hunderu, Penneru and a host of others. The floods overtook the people so suddenly that they have lost all their property including

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food-stuffs. The relief given by Government to these people by way of cash grants of rupees five and ten is not relief at all. Of course, loans are given up to Rs. 500 per head or per family in Kurnool district. Here again, the grant is quite inadequate. For example, a bull in Kurnool costs not less than Rs. 400, and people here have lost nearly two-thirds of their cattle wealth. In these circumstances, I do not know how it is possible to repair their losses and rehabilitate them. The rivers passing through the villages like Madugula, Sangameswaram, Beeruvolu and others have over-flowed and destroyed huge property. People here were marooned and they had to be removed from the small 'islands' with the help of basket boats. Sir, the plight of the weavers in my district is almost very pitiable. In these days the weavers are economically very bad and are having only a hand-to-mouth existence. Their only property are the houses they dwell in and most of these houses have collapsed and come down. The ordinary ryot who has at least something to fall back upon can withstand such a loss and can reconstruct another dwelling place for him with the help of the implements and other materials he possesses. But these weavers are of little or no means and have nothing to fall back upon in the event of a such a calamity. Hence their condition is worse than others' and they must be afforded greater relief. After all, it is these people that supply cloth for the country and therefore deserve to be treated better in the matter of relief. Now I shall turn to the roads that were damaged by the cyclone. My friend Mr. Ranga Reddi has already said that many roads have been seriously damaged, Sir, these call for immediate repairs as on their proper upkeep to an extent depends our food production. Besides, many distributory channels have also been damaged which also have to be repaired at once. Sir, it will be seen that the damage caused by the cyclone is very great. Our Premier perhaps thought in the beginning that the reports about the cyclone havoc were grossly exaggerated. But I am sure by now he would have revised his opinion, having seen the reports submitted by the District Collectors and the Board of Revenue as they are nothing but tales of woe. I am sorry, Sir, that no Minister has so far visited the affected areas in Kurnool to see how relief work is being done. I think a visit by the Hon. Ministers will expedite relief measures. I hope at least now some of them will visit the districts affected by the cyclone and see what relief is given, what more is needed, and in what manner that relief should be efforded."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Is the hon. Member Dr. John making a speech on his amendment? "

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" No, Sir. I shall only read the amendment—

' and on such consideration this Council resolves that this Council recommends to the Government that the Government be pleased to spend as much as is necessary and as much as is possible for giving immediate relief to those who have suffered by the cyclone.'

Sir, I am emphasising the words ' spend ' and ' immediate '. The Government must spend the amount and relief must be immediate and not delayed."

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* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ Mr. President, Sir, let me at the outset express my thanks to the various hon. Members for the many constructive suggestions that they gave and also for the information that they tried to give to the Government in addition to what was already furnished in my statement yesterday. I must make it clear, Sir, that what has been furnished already was what we had at the time we went to the Press, and certain reports are likely to have been received subsequently. So, it need not be taken that if certain places or certain areas have not been mentioned, it is not as though no damage has taken place in those parts. If there had been any damages anywhere, the local officers who have been asked to tour those places will certainly take note of them and send a report to Government. Let me, therefore, assure this House that the Government are as anxious as hon. Members here are, to see, that redress of distress is done speedily and effectively. We believe only in speedy and effective relief. I need not therefore reiterate what we have already done in the matter of relief. In fact, my statement covers all this in detail, and I thought by moving this motion I could clear the minds of the hon. Members about the urgency with which Government acted in this matter. Sir, let me now recount what we did as soon as the news of the cyclone was received. I personally tried to contact the Collectors in the various districts by telephone but unfortunately, as I have already stated, telegraphic and telephonic communications were interrupted and we could get into touch with them by wireless alone. It took nearly two to three days, I remember, to restore the communications throughout the districts affected. So, there was some delay naturally in getting information. As you are aware, Sir, the cyclone hit the districts on the 27th and the 28th of last month. Today is the 15th of November and the statement I furnished was based on information received on and up to the 10th of this month. It is possible that the information was not full or complete; but as I have assured you, Sir, we have been trying to contact every District Collector and get all the information. So, no member need feel that if there is any omission in the mention of places damaged, Government will not take care of that area. There has been another criticism, Sir, that Ministers have not rushed to the places affected by the cyclone. May I remind hon. Members that two of the Ministers did go and visit the affected areas? They are the Hon. Mr. Chandramouli and the Hon. Mr. Parameswaran. For my part, Sir, I personally felt that by expediting the orders sanctioning relief from here, I could render better service to the victims than by visiting the places. (An hon. Member : ‘ The Hon. Mr. Chandramouli visited the Guntur district.’) Yes, Sir, Guntur also was one of the affected districts. I also felt, Sir, that it would be better if I sent the Members of the Board of Revenue to tour the places as they are all experienced officers who have had occasions before to deal with such disasters and who would be in a position to issue orders on the spot to the local officers to provide immediate relief to the poor victims. Sir, it is with this end in view that I asked the four Members of the Board of Revenue to visit and inspect the affected areas and it was not as though the

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Government were indifferent about the calamity. I should certainly like to deny the charge that has been sought to be made that the Ministers are indifferent. On the other hand, I may tell hon. Members, the Government have been very very anxious about the situation in those districts and as I have already said, I had to spend anxious days even to get information by wireless. Also I was keeping in touch with the various departments that were attending to relief work—the Public Works Department, the Public Health Department and the Revenue Department.

“ Sir, some members have said that the cash grants sanctioned are very small, and asked how it was possible with such small sums to meet such a grave situation. I should like to tell hon. Members that the amount that was sanctioned was only for immediate relief, to enable the people to buy for example, some rice or some palmyra leaves for raising huts or the like. The question of giving them substantial relief is always there. Besides, there is the question of remission which will also be taken up for examination. So, let there not be any feeling in the minds of hon. Members that the amount sanctioned is very small compared to the magnitude of the calamity.

“ The Leader of the Opposition suggested that the Government could have very well constituted a permanent fund to meet situations like this. Sir, I would like to invite hon. Members' attention to the fact that there is what is called the Famine Relief Fund and under that Fund we have got today 88.44 lakhs of rupees. This amount is intended to be spent only whenever there is necessity for it, i.e., if there was a famine upon the land or a cyclone. So the idea of having necessary funds in reserve in such emergencies has already been taken note of by the Government of the day as well as the previous Governments. In fact there had been an Amending Act in 1938 to the Madras Famine Relief Act of 1936.

“ Sir, there has been another suggestion made about the remission of land revenue. It has been suggested that the Government should be very liberal in ordering remissions. Sir, I should thank Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar for the correct lead that he gave in the matter. It is not a question of just granting remissions because somebody shouts the loudest. There is what is called the Ajmash. We have asked the Collectors and the Revenue Divisional Officers to assess the extent of damages. There are also the revenue rules to grant remissions in such cases. In addition to all these, as I have already made clear in my statement, Government want to be liberal in this matter because they realize the magnitude of the sufferings of the people and let me assure you once again, Sir, that the Government intend to be very very liberal in all deserving cases. I may also tell Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar that because somebody shouts, we are not going to be cowed down and made to yield to him. Relief will be given on a scientific basis as has been done previously and will be based upon real needs of the people and the extent of their losses.

“ Sir, there was another complaint, if I may say so, by hon. Members that the interest free loans of Rs. 500 will not be sufficient and at least it must be made Rs. 1,000. The Members of the Board of Revenue had consultations with the District Collectors

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in this matter and after touring the affected areas extensively made this recommendation which Government have accepted. But if there is any need in any particular case for enhancing these interest-free loans, I can assure hon. Members that it will be examined with sympathy."

AN HON. MEMBER :—" What about interest-free loans for the landless people? "

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" The Government are giving such loans only by way of help to the people who have been adversely affected by the cyclone. The suggestion that interest-free loans should be given to a particular class will have to be examined and it is a question about which I cannot give any assurance because Government money is public money and when public money is utilized, it must be done on a proper and reasonable basis for Government owe a duty to the public. They owe a duty to the entire public as the money to the Government comes from the public. We must use the Government resources in a way that will ensure its return. If it is called a loan, we must see that we ensure conditions which will enable us to collect the loan. That is why I cannot give an assurance about these kinds of loans. 5-45 p.m.

" Then several hon. Members tressed the need for repairing irrigation sources. They also said that the repairs must be taken up speedily. As I have already said, my Hon. Colleague the Minister for Public Works, has already taken up the matter and instructed the Public Works Department to speed up the repairs to all tanks whether they are in the zamindari areas or non-zamindari areas. There should be no distinction, not even waiting, to consult even the zamindars about these repairs. We have instructed that the first thing to be done was to repair the tanks and the question of who is to bear the cost, etc., should be examined later. We feel that unless these tanks and irrigation sources and channels are immediately repaired, the food position of the entire Province is bound to suffer.

" Then the question has been raised about supply of water for the second crop. Even on that question we have instructed the Public Works Department to give highest priority and make water available for the second crop in the cyclone affected areas. Hon. Member Mr. Purushotham made some suggestions about certain policies that have already been decided upon and that they may stand in the way of giving water for the second crop in certain areas, certain blocks and certain zones, and all that. I have not examined all the aspects of it. I can only tell him that if it is not an obstacle and does not mean any loss to any other *Ayacutdar* who is entitled to that water, there is no difficulty in accepting the suggestion. But if it involved the infringement of the rights of other people who are entitled to irrigation, it would be difficult because we cannot deprive another man of his rights. I can only assure the House that the Government will not spare any pains to see that as much of water as possible is supplied for the cultivation of the second crop.

" Then there was certain criticism made that food was not available. I think . . . "

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MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Certain amendments were given. The Hon. Minister may deal with them.”

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ I shall deal with them presently, Sir. Certain criticism was made that food was not available in the affected areas. I have got a note from the Food Department which gives the stocks of rice on hand in the various districts, available with the Government procuring agents including millers as on 5th November 1949. In Visakhapatnam, the stock was 6,262 tons. The weekly off-take was 875 and the stock would last for seven weeks. In East Godavari the stock was 6,111 tons which would last for six weeks at the rate of 997 tons of off-take every week. In West Godavari the stock was 7,194 tons. The weekly off-take was 846 tons and the stock would last for eight weeks. In Krishna the stock was 4,861 tons which would last for four weeks, the weekly off-take being 1,193 tons. In Guntur the stock was 6,874 tons. The weekly off-take was 1,188 tons and the stock would last for five weeks. In Nellore the stock was 4,612 tons which would last for 16 weeks, the weekly off-take being 274 tons. I am bringing this to the notice of the House as there is a feeling that there is no adequate stock of rice. Most probably, Sir, the difficulty has been that the matter of distribution has not been properly tackled. I have this morning, when this was brought to my notice, instructed the Secretary, Food Department, to contact the Collectors of all these districts by telephone and to instruct them to see that this complaint about non-availability of rice in some areas is removed immediately. He tried to get them over the phone but could not do so. Urgent messages have therefore been sent. I hope, Sir, this difficulty would have been removed by this time or very shortly; in a couple of days or at the most in three days.

“ Then, Sir, it was asked whether the Government have got any figure on the extent of damage and all that. As I have already said it could not be collected within a week that we have had. The figures will certainly be collected. As I have already said, necessary special staff will go and then assess the amount of damage, the area damaged and then the question of what remission can be given and what other help should be given, will all be taken up. The area affected is very vast and naturally it will take some time before we can assess properly the damage done.

“ Hon. Member, Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu, in his first amendment has suggested that the Hon. Minister for Public Works should give an assurance about the Budameru project. I am sure, Sir, he won't press this amendment because the Government, as has already been made clear by the Hon. the Minister for Public Works, have a scheme ready for that. But I believe, it was put off on the ground of Ramapadasagar project coming or on some other ground. But, Sir, in view of this cyclone and in the light of the views expressed by the Hon. Members of this House, this will certainly be examined and done—so much for the Budameru which is called the villain of the piece.

“ Then, Sir, the other question is crop insurance and state-aided corporation. Sir, I have got the fullest sympathy for this idea. In this country the greatest handicap for the agriculturist

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has been the lack of crop insurance and also cattle insurance. It is a desirable and urgent reform, I concede. But I am sure the hon. Member would agree with me that at the present moment as we are situated and as things are, this problem cannot be immediately tackled because of the vast areas in which this crop insurance has to be worked and also the disbursal of the cattle in a large area. These have to be taken up. But, Sir, at present, I can only express the greatest sympathy and agreement about the idea.

“ Now, about the amendment suggested in (c), viz., that all ryots whose holdings were submerged with water flowing over the head of the paddy crop for at least two days, be given interest-free loans at the rate of Rs. 100 per acre repayable in yearly instalments by not less than five years and other ryots, whose holdings were partially submerged, be given remission of rent or revenue, I cannot give an assurance that everything that has been suggested there could be done. We have already stated that the question of remission would be examined. Now, I am sorry, I cannot accept this suggestion of giving Rs. 100 per acre because I do not know the vast amount that may be required. It must also depend on the capacity of the Government to do that. I can only assure this, that so far as the loans are concerned, as I have already said in regard to these interest-free loans, instead of Rs. 500, if there are cases where there are special considerations, they will be examined. Then, Sir, this state-aided flood damage corporation. As I have already said, there is under the Famine Relief, a fund. The amount is there and so I do not think, Sir, there is need for pressing this amendment. And then lastly it is suggested that the procurement or export of paddy or rice from the Circars be immediately stopped till the next crop. Sir, we hear the hon. Member coming from West Godavari, Mr. Narayana Rao telling that even this year after the second crop a lakh of tons would be available for procurement. So, Sir, the procurement will certainly depend on the availability and our officers will be instructed by the Food Department to see that there is no harassment in the matter of procurement and nobody who is unable to surrender or give, is harassed. But it will be difficult for me to say that till the next crop there should be no procurement. There is another aspect of it, Sir, that has to be taken into consideration. If there is plenty available, the ryot himself would be anxious to dispose of the paddy that he has got.”

AN HON. MEMBER :—“ Fair prices.”

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ We are paying fair prices. I am sure, Sir, these amendments would not be pressed. Then, Sir, about the amendment of the Leader of the Opposition that ‘ on such consideration this Council resolves that this Council recommends to the Government that the Government be pleased to spend as much as is necessary and as much as is possible for giving immediate relief to those who have suffered by the cyclone ’, we will spend as much as is necessary and as far as possible. I can give him that assurance. I am sure the hon. Members will withdraw their amendments that they have moved.”

AN HON. MEMBER :—“ Withdrawn.”

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MR. PRESIDENT :—" You are prudent in withdrawing seeing the empty benches on the back."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It was very properly said by Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar that the havoc caused by the cyclone was not the loss of one area, but a national loss. I am glad that hon. Members of this House have expressed the same sentiment. May I hope that everybody in the Province will view it as a national calamity and come forward to help in the rehabilitation of those who have suffered and so far as the Government . . ."

AN HON. MEMBER :—" Sri R. K. Patil was here and may we have particulars of what his views were."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I do not look into some other peoples' mind. I have had no discussion with him on this matter. I cannot answer for Mr. R. K. Patil because you see, Sir, he came on a specific purpose. I do not want to go into the matter and I do not think any particular purpose would be served in going into the matter. Sir, I would again like to emphasize the national loss and how it is very necessary for every area of the Madras Presidency to see that those people who suffered in that area are quickly rehabilitated and there is less discontent. I fully associate the Government with the idea and I expect that everybody would certainly co-operate in making the work of relief as successful as possible. It is not merely a question of monetary contribution but willing and sincere service that is important. Money will be collected. How best it could be collected and how best it must be utilized for the purpose of these people really deserve attention. It should not be wasted. I am sure, Sir, and I hope, when the question of relief and contribution comes, everybody from the Presidency would respond."

" It is proposed to call a Sheriff's meeting on the 24th or 25th of this month to appeal for relief and constitute a committee. I believe it would be then decided as to the name of the fund, where it must come from, and how it is to be done, etc. Sir, let me once again thank the members of the House for the very constructive and helpful suggestions that they have made and I am sure, Sir, that not only the Government but the people of the area who have suffered this loss will be grateful to the members who have expressed their sympathy in their sufferings."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Amendments are either withdrawn or are not pressed. The motion is talked out. The House will now adjourn and meet on the 17th."

The House adjourned.

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APPENDIX

[Vide answer to starred question No. 20 asked by Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 15th November 1949, page 301 supra.]

PRESS NOTE NO. 101, DATED 30TH MAY 1949.

Groundnut oilcake—Regulation of inter-district movement.

Consequent on the decontrol of procurement and prices of groundnut oilcake in January 1949 it has become more necessary than before to regulate the movement of the cake so as to render available supplies throughout the Province. For this purpose the districts have been classified into two groups as shown below in consultation with the South India Oil Mill Owners' Association :—

Group A (surplus districts).

North Visakhapatnam.

South Visakhapatnam.

Guntur.

Krishna.

Bellary.

Anantapur.

Cuddapah.

Kurnool.

Chingleput *cum* Madras.

South Arcot.

Salem.

Chittoor.

Group B (deficit districts).

East Godavari.

West Godavari.

Nellore.

North Arcot.

Tiruchirappalli.

Tanjore.

Mathurai.

Ramnad.

Tirunelveli.

Coimbatore.

Malabar.

South Kanara.

The Nilgiris.

Movements of the cake are allowed from districts in Group A to districts in Group B only, but inter-district movements in Group A or in Group B or movements from Group B to Group A are forbidden. The millers in the districts included in Group A can obtain standing permits from the District Agricultural Officers concerned for consigning supplies to the districts comprised in Group B. Contravention of these restrictions will be a violation of the provisions of the Madras Oilcake Movement Control Order.

